



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Islamic Affairs

Islamic Affairs: Muslim World League Urges Halt to Israeli Measures

LD1903145796 Riyadh SPA in English
1204 GMT 18 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Makkah, March 18, SPA — The Secretariat General of the Muslim World League (MWL) has urged the international community to prevent Israel from going ahead in its policy of repressive collective punishment in the occupied territories and said such repressive measures run counter to the teachings of divine religions as well as to the principles of human rights and the UN's conventions.

The measures taken by the Israeli authorities to block arrival of food and medical supplies to the Palestinian people run counter to what it has been announcing about its keenness on stability, security and peace, said a statement released by the MWL's general secretariat.

The statement called on the OIC [Organization of Islamic Conference] to urge the countries of the world to put pressure on Israel until it ceases the policy of collective punishment and terrorizing of the innocent people.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 15 Mar
NC2003150396

[FBIS Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 15 March edition of the Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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1. Students Said To Demonstrate Against Peacemakers Summit
2. U.S., Israel Allegedly Agree To Combat Hamas, al-Jihad
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9. Writers, Men of Religion Hail Shaykh al-Ghazali
10. Egyptian Lawyers Denied Entry by Jordan To Defend Shubaylat
11. Opposition Parties Demand Fair Elections, End to Tyranny

12. Sentences Against Muslim Brotherhood Leaders Contested

13. Column Criticizes Ibrahim Nafi's Double Standards on Terror

14. Writer Warns That 'International Discipline Campaign' Doomed

15. 'Adil Husayn Criticizes Sharm al-Shaykh Summit, Egypt's Role

STUDENTS SAID TO DEMONSTRATE AGAINST PEACEMAKERS SUMMIT

A 400 word report by 'Abd-al-Hayy Muhammad on page 1 reports on student demonstrations at Cairo and other universities while the Peacemakers Summit was convening in Sharm al-Shaykh in protest against the Summit. The report notes: "During the demonstrations, the students disseminated a statement rejecting the leveling of accusations of violence and terrorism at the Islamic movement." The students' statement praised the mujahidin's efforts to liberate Palestine from "Jewish filth." The students also chanted anti-Jewish and pro-Islamic slogans and called on the Egyptian Government to sever all ties with Israel.

U.S., ISRAEL ALLEGEDLY AGREE TO COMBAT HAMAS, AL-JIHAD

A 350-word report on page 1 by Mahmud Bakri discusses President Clinton's visit to Israel after the Sharm al-Shaykh Summit. Bakri reveals that Clinton's talks in Israel "were aimed at signing a comprehensive bilateral agreement for security cooperation in tracking down Islamic movements, particularly Hamas and Islamic Jihad" anywhere in the Arab world. The Pentagon has reportedly agreed to help Israel track down members of these two movements. The United States has "proposed forming a new international alliance tantamount to an international deterrence force" to combat terrorism.

GOVERNMENT PREPARING TO RIG LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

A 100-word report on page 1 by Mu'tazz al-Hadidi says that the government has begun preparations to rig local council elections. The constitutional court has annulled the existing councils. "As a first step, police departments have allowed government companies and organizations to register hundreds of employees in the election committees near their companies," the report says. The companies have not adhered to the restrictions on the number of employees or their places of residence and work, a source at the Interior Ministry admitted.

'HEATED ARGUMENT' REPORTED IN ARAB LEAGUE MEETING ON SUMMIT

A 400-word report by Rabi' Shahin on pages 1 and 8 reports on a "heated argument" among the foreign ministers during the Arab League Council meetings in Cairo regarding the Sharm al-Shaykh Summit. PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi said he could not participate in the Summit and "personally boycotted the summit because the name was wrong in the first place. He added that he was not prepared to take part in a demonstration of support to Peres." Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said that if Syria could have made sure the Summit would address all regional issues objectively, it would have taken part in it. Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said about Lebanon: "It could not take part in meetings that discussed terrorism from one angle and ignored the practices of the other party."

CHIEF EDITOR RELEASED AFTER CHARGES OF INCITING WORKERS

Dawud Hasan writes a 300-word report on page 1 in which he notes that the Higher State Security Prosecution-Emergency decided on 12 March to release AL-SHA'B Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn after "he was charged by the State Security Investigations Department for provoking workers and harming Egypt's economy because the newspaper published the Labor Party Central Secretariat's statement in issue number 1039 on 8 March. In its statement, the party attacks the sale of public sector companies to foreigners and the laying off of thousands of workers." The report notes that Majdi Husayn affirmed that the statement was released by the party and that the sale of public sector companies is a point of conflict between the party and the government.

AL-SHA'B PUBLISHES E-MAIL ADDRESS

"The electronic address of AL-SHA'B newspaper on the Internet network: elshaab@idsc.gov.eg" is given on page 1.

TRIAL OF EGYPTIAN CITIZEN SPYING FOR ISRAEL BEGINS 13 MAR

Page 1 publishes a 200-word unattributed report, continued on page 8, on the trial of an Egyptian citizen who spied for Israel from 1983 to 1992. The trial of 'Amir Salman Armilat, "who is charged with spying on the Egyptian Army in Sinai and destroying the youth by distributing heroin and drugs for 11 years upon orders from the Israeli Intelligence, Mosad," will start on 13 March. The Higher State Security Prosecution carried out investigations and uncovered the spy. He was caught

with 12 kilograms of heroin that he had been given as a reward for termination of duty by the Mosad.

SHARM AL-SHAYKH SUMMIT RESOLUTIONS CRITICIZED

Pages 2 and 3 of this issue of AL-SHA'B are dedicated to the Peacemakers Summit in Sharm al-Shaykh. In an introductory passage containing rhetorical questions about justice and fairness, the newspaper asks: "What happened at the Summit to protect Israel's security?" The reports and articles focus on the resolutions of the Summit which are in favor of Israel.

Under the headline "The Summit Inaugurates For the First Time the Arab-Israeli Security Normalization," the paper reports in a 2000-word article by Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah on U.S.-Israeli pressures on some Arabian Gulf countries to tighten control on Islamic charity organizations in order not to allow them to fund "political violence in the Middle East." One of the articles on the Summit statement stipulates that efforts should be exerted to pinpoint the sources of this funding, and co-operation should take place to stop its flow. The report cites at length from the Summit statement, and notes that Syria and Lebanon refused to attend because they will be put under pressure to implement decisions that they disagree with in principle, such as "closing down the Hamas and al-Jihad offices in Damascus and banning the activities of the Islamic Resistance against the Israeli occupation in southern Lebanon." The most dangerous results of this Summit, however, have been that "it gave Peres the green light to do what he wants in the West Bank against the Arabs, without being blamed for it."

Another 1000-word report by Tal'at Ahmad Musallam under the headline "The Harvest of the Summit" notes that the conferees agreed to tighten the siege on the Palestinians under the pretext of preventing funding for terrorism. Agreement was also reached to "cooperate against the terrorist elements which will be defined by the United States and the European Union." The report notes that the definition of "terrorist elements" will apply generally to all Arabs, while the citizens of Syria, Iran, Libya, and Sudan will be considered "dangerous criminals."

In a third 1500-word report entitled "International Media Reveal the Secrets of the Summit: The Arabs Are the Losers and International Action To Support Israel," Salah Budaywi cites various international television and radio networks and newspapers on their reporting of the Summit.

Mahmud Bakri writes a fourth report of 1500 words under the headline "The Leaders of International Failure

in Sharm al-Shaykh Put Forth a Plan To Further Oppress the Oppressed Masses." Bakri maintains that public and secret plans were agreed upon during the Summit. The public plans have been announced in the Summit statement, while the secret plans consist of illicit activities to combat "Islamists." Proceeding from this, the United States has agreed to provide the Israeli military organization with modern equipment. Bakri says: "Agreement was reached on setting up training programs to track down the Islamic movements, in particular in Libya and Syria. This indicates that there is joint U.S.-Israeli activity to infiltrate the security borders of Syria and Libya and to carry out joint operations which could lead to political disturbances inside these two countries."

Again under the headline "The Peacemakers Summit is a Support for the Zionists and a Blow Against Islamic Awakening," Yusuf Sa'd writes a 2000-word survey of the opinions of intellectuals, politicians, and men of the law. The report is summed up by the following paragraph: "With this conference, the world has seen that Israel never stands alone and that there are those who support it always. There is also a fake word called peace that the United States likes to use and through which it intends to strike Islamic awakening and declare war on Islam; therefore, there cannot be peace when land and rights are usurped, and the fedayeen operations that are taking place to regain these rights are the natural result of the Zionist belligerence and a simple answer to the massacres they have committed and the nooses they have slung."

A 350-word unattributed report entitled "An Egyptian-Israeli dispute over Islamic Terrorism" notes that an argument erupted between Egypt and Israel over the name of the conference before it actually started and the wording of the final statement. "The Zionists preferred to use the term terrorism [preceding word also written in English] while Egypt preferred to use the term violence [al-'unf; the report translates the preceding word in English as 'terror']. A compromise was reached by concentrating on the term peace and calling the conference the peacemakers summit." The report adds that when writing the final statement, the Israeli foreign minister insisted on using the term Islamic terrorism. "However," the report notes, "the Egyptian Foreign Ministry refused noting that terrorism has no religion and that it is present among all kinds of people." Agreement was finally reached to use the Egyptian name for the conference, while the final statement would refer to the Israeli request to combat terrorism. Israel also wanted a specific reference in the final statement to the recent Hamas attacks on it, but some Arab countries

reportedly intervened and asked that the statement be of a general nature.

A short 100-word unattributed report notes that the expenses for the Sharm al-Shaykh summit were immense, and Egypt has to foot the bill in its capacity as host country. The report maintains that tourism in Sharm al-Shaykh was ruined before and during the conference due to security measures.

WRITERS, MEN OF RELIGION HAIL SHAYKH AL-GHAZALI

The center pages, 6 and 7, are dedicated solely to the memory of Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali. Various articles and statements are published praising Shaykh al-Ghazali, some of which are by Shaykh Muhammad Mutawalli al-Sha'rawi, Shaykh Yusuf al-Qaradawi, and others. They all hail him as a great Islamic preacher and thinker.

EGYPTIAN LAWYERS DENIED ENTRY BY JORDAN TO DEFEND SHUBAYLAT

Page 8 publishes a 50-word report which notes that Egyptian lawyers Muntasir al-Zayyat and Mahmud Riyad, who were asked by Jordanian lawyers to take part in the defense of Jordanian Engineer Doyen Layth Shubaylat, were not allowed to enter Jordan. Shubaylat is charged with insulting King Husayn of Jordan by writing articles that defamed the Hashemite family. The two lawyers were held at the airport in Amman for 12 hours, denied contact with anyone, and returned to Cairo on the first plane back.

OPPOSITION PARTIES DEMAND FAIR ELECTIONS, END TO TYRANNY

A 100-word report on page 8 by Khalid Yunus says that the coordination committee among the opposition parties held a meeting in Damanhur that was attended by various representatives from the opposition parties. "The representatives of the parties and political forces affirmed the need to form a united opposition front to confront corruption and governmental tyranny and to demand free and fair elections," the report said.

SENTENCES AGAINST MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD LEADERS CONTESTED

A lengthy 2000-word report by Dawud Hasan on page 10 discusses the martial law prison and hard labor sentences issued against 45 leading members of the Muslim Brotherhood. The legal battle contesting these sentences, the report notes, has not ended yet. The most important opposition to the sentences lies in the unconstitutionality of article 6 of the martial law on whose basis the trial was conducted and which will

be investigated by the counselors at the Constitutional Court on 3 March [date as received]. A request has been submitted to cancel the ratification by the president and defense minister of the martial law sentences issued against the Muslim Brothers. "The request petition revealed that the president's decision to ratify the sentences was issued with the intention of causing a specific legal outcome, which is to prevent the defendants from enjoying their legal rights and literary freedom by putting them in prison through an unjust law," the report said. The rest of the report discusses detailed legal matters pertaining to the trial and the calls contesting the sentences.

COLUMN CRITICIZES IBRAHIM NAFI'S DOUBLE STANDARDS ON TERROR

Muhammad Abu-al-Futuh writes a 600-word column on the back page entitled "Quick Thoughts About Hamas and Terrorism." He attacks AL-AHRAM Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi' for an article he wrote with the headline "Who Will Stop the Machine of Bestial Terrorism Which Threatens World Peace?" Abu-al-Futuh criticizes the double standards of terrorism. "The tragi-comic thing," he writes, "is that if the mujahidin of Lebanon and Palestine shed a drop of Israeli blood, we and the rest of the world shout: It is terrorism, however, if the Zionists shed seas of Palestinian and Arab blood, it is received very calmly." The writer notes certain errors in Nafi's article. For example, Nafi' describes Fathi al-Shiqaqi as "a leading figure in Hamas," and Abu-al-Futuh corrects him by saying that al-Shiqaqi is the former secretary general of the al-Jihad organization in Palestine. He criticizes Nafi' for equating the "extremist Palestinian right with the extremist Jewish right; in other words equating the house-owners with the thief who robbed them." He notes that when the Palestinians manage to inflict only one-tenth of the damage the Israelis have inflicted on them, "then we could begin to label them as terrorists," although this would be a great concession on his part, the writer adds. The rest of the report quotes at length from statements by Hizballah's Fadlallah and PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi.

WRITER WARNS THAT 'INTERNATIONAL DISCIPLINE CAMPAIGN' DOOMED

Mahmud Bakri writes his "An Honest Word" 400-word column on the backpage entitled "Our Dawn Shall Come." After pointing out that some parties are misjudging if they believe they are frightening us with their "international discipline campaign," and other parties delude themselves by claiming that "gathering the leaders of international failure will silence the liberated people and oppress the jihad of the strugglers

for the freedom of their homeland," Bakri asserts that we will not lose our faith in our Arab identity and true religion. "We will never surrender," he stresses. "There can be no peace with murderers. This is our doctrine, as well as our program. Peace can only take place with equal human beings, not with apes and pigs gathered from all corners of the world to strip us of our land, occupy our country, and violate our sanctities." He warns "the masters" that their new scheme is doomed to fail because we can remain steadfast in the face of all conspiracies.

'ADIL HUSAYN CRITICIZES SHARM AL-SHAYKH SUMMIT, EGYPT'S ROLE

'Adil Husayn writes an approximately 5000-word article on page 5 entitled "Our Role Has Changed From an Extra to The Hero in the Sharm al-Shaykh Play." Husayn opens his article with a question on whether there was any chance to discuss anything at the Sharm al-Shaykh Summit, since the U.S. Administration held all discussions beforehand with the big powers and issued instructions to the smaller ones on what to say. "What happened in Sharm al-Shaykh was not a conference for discussions to take place, but a show of solidarity to lift the Zionist morale and declare large-scale international support for those butchers' panicky attacks on the Arabs and Muslims." He notes that during the Madrid peace conference in 1992, the United States wanted the lead role and did not allow others to shine, but in Sharm al-Shaykh, it needed to have the Arabs, in particular Egypt and Mubarak, play the lead role because it wanted them to declare their support for Israel. He discusses the conflict over the name and objective of the conference, whether it should have been called the anti-terror conference or peace-rescuing conference. Eventually, everyone settled for the Summit of Peacemakers, Husayn says. Husayn writes: "Therefore, say what you want about the objectives of the summit and its agenda. The fact remains that it contained only one point, which is how to counter terrorism." The proof, Husayn notes, lies in the speeches that were delivered, which mostly stressed countering terrorism, rather than establishing peace. He criticizes the fact that such conferences are held and sanctions taken against the Arabs, but not other parts of the world. He praises the stances of the Saudi and Yemeni foreign ministers because they linked condemnation of terrorism to the need to eradicate its roots represented in the continuing Israeli occupation of Arab lands. He reviews the stances of other Arab countries during the summit, notably the Qatari foreign minister's who invited Peres to visit Qatar, and criticizes them for conceding their honor and dignity to the United States and Israel.

Moving to the Israeli stance during the summit, Husayn says that Israel wants capitulation from the Arabs, not peace, and urges the Arabs to reject the capitulation plan. Criticizing Peres, who claims he wants peace, Husayn says the difference between Peres and Netanyahu is that one "wants to kill us slowly using poison without much ado or blood, while the other wants to stab us to death." Discussing Israel's military superiority over the Arabs, he notes that the Israelis are panicking now because they feel helpless with regard to the human bombs. They neutralized Iraq's nuclear power and are superior in their satellite systems, but they also realize that this cannot last forever. This is why they are seeking peace. He says: "The real significance of what happened in Sharm al-Shaykh is the excessive Zionist need for such a speedily convened 'historic conference' so that their structure does not collapse and their stupidities do not strike the world around them."

Husayn goes on to discuss the significance of President Mubarak's chairmanship of the conference. He reminds the readers that Egypt's role in the region became limited after peace with the other Arabs was achieved. Egypt was not invited to attend the peace agreement signing ceremony at the White House, nor did many of the economic conferences on cooperation in the region take place in Cairo. He notes that Egypt played the role of the hero in Sharm al-Shaykh because of the actions of the Palestinian martyrs, not because of any effort on its part. He regrets that Egypt's importance in the region is being exploited against the Arabs and Muslims. In conclusion he says: "Definitely, the Syrian stance has contained the harm emerging from this meeting in Sharm al-Shaykh." He then contemplates the benefits that could have been reaped had Egypt's leaders refused to hold this meeting in Egypt under their patronage and joined Syria in its position.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Meets Israel's Sarid, Denies PA-Hamas Agreement

TA2003133996 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
1200 GMT 20 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Labor Secretary General Nisim Zvili has asked the chief of staff to state whether there is an agreement between 'Arafat and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] permitting the latter to carry out attacks inside Israel, provided the terrorists do not embark on the action from the autonomy. Our correspondents Yo'el Nir and Yaron Deqel report that Zvili noted in his letter that the issue has become a topic of a public argument.

Yasir 'Arafat denies the existence of an agreement between the Palestinian Authority (PA) and Hamas

enabling the latter to operate against Israel. 'Arafat told Minister Yosi Sarid in a meeting in Gaza that although a dialogue with Hamas was held in Cairo with the participation of the Egyptians, it precluded the option of attacks against Israel.

Minister Yosi Sarid told our correspondent Nisim Qeynan that 'Arafat asked him to inform Prime Minister Peres about several confidential steps the PA has taken against terror organizations in recent days. Minister Sarid noted that he was favorably impressed by the antiterror steps taken by the PA, but he told 'Arafat that in view of the new warnings concerning possible terror acts, the closure would continue for the time being, although an effort would be made to continue to ease it.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat-Sarid News Conference Reported

JN2003155796 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1200 GMT 20 Mar 96

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat stressed that he is against the deportation of any Palestinian. He said that if any Palestinian commits a crime, he must be punished in Palestinian prisons. This came during a news conference held by President 'Arafat and Israeli Environment [Protection Minister] Yosi Sarid at the end of their meeting at the Presidential Office in Gaza this afternoon. The meeting was also attended by Immigrant Absorption Minister Ya'ir Tzaban.

President 'Arafat described his talks with the two Israeli ministers as positive and constructive. President 'Arafat said he handed the two ministers important documents containing the confessions of Israeli extremists during meetings with Palestinian forces. He referred to lengthy deliberations about several matters, indicating the serious relations between the extremists on the Palestinian and Israeli sides.

The president stressed the need to continue efforts to safeguard peace. The president praised the close relations with the peace camp to which Sarid and Tzaban belong, noting that this camp has called for a Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital and for peace for the two peoples.

President 'Arafat added that during the Cairo talks, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] was asked to stop its operations and respect the peace process. However, he said, we now discovered that it receives orders from Iran and Arab states.

The president said: Our people are looking forward to the achievement of a just, comprehensive peace. He said

peace is not only a Palestinian, Israeli, or Arab demand, but also a world demand.

President 'Arafat continued: We know that there are so many enemies of peace. We do not forget that our partner Rabin lost his life for peace. At the same time, we do not forget the crimes against Palestinian worshippers at the al-Ibrahimi and al-Aqsa Mosques. I have evidence to prove that there is cooperation between terrorist groups on both sides.

For his part, Israeli Environment Minister Yosi Sarid stressed that he is against the demolishing of houses and against any move that would directly or indirectly help Hamas. Stressing his rejection of deportations, he said collective punishment is unsuccessful. Sarid said his meeting with President 'Arafat was fruitful. He noted the importance of and need for dialogue between the National Authority and the Israeli Government. He indicated that he handed President 'Arafat a message from Israeli Prime Minister Peres and carried a message from the president to Peres. Sarid also congratulated President 'Arafat on winning the presidential elections and the success of the Palestinian legislative elections.

Meanwhile, Israeli Immigrant Absorption Minister Ya'ir Tzaban said: I will not justify mass punishment by either side. Tzaban said that he supports every practical step against terrorism. He said he was pleased to visit Gaza and meet with President 'Arafat.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Adviser Says No Charter Amendment During Closure

TA2103080096 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
0700 GMT 21 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Khalid Salam, 'Arafat's economic adviser, says that the Palestine National Council will not convene to amend the Palestinian Charter as long as the territories are under closure. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], one of the PLO leaders, has denounced the plan to deport Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad activists and demanded that the Israeli Government retract its decision. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Says Palestinians Looking Forward to Peace

JN2103075096 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
0600 GMT 21 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has said that the elections held in Palestine gave an answer and conclusive evidence to everyone that the Palestinian people are looking forward to achieving peace.

President 'Arafat added that all states in the region have benefited from the peace process but the Palestinian people are paying the price of peace. He asserted that peace is not only an Israeli, Palestinian, or Arab need but also an international need. He also stressed the Palestinian side's commitment to the peace process.

Palestinian Affairs: Official on 'New' Hamas Group, Other Issues

MM2003170296 *London AL-HAYAH in Arabic*
20 Mar 96 p 7

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, Palestinian official in charge of Jerusalem affairs, by Randah Taqiyy-al-Din in Paris; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Taqiyy-al-Din] How do you assess the peace process developments in the light of the arrests of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] elements and Israel's blockade of the Palestinian territories?

[Al-Husayni] The arrests and searches carried out by the Palestinian Authority [PA], along with the unmasking of specific sources, are primarily for the purpose of defending the Palestinian national plan, safeguarding its continuity and development, and ending the Israeli occupation. The Israelis are seriously mistaken if they think that these arrests are the outcome of their requests or contacts, and hence they should not exaggerate these matters. If they do so, and want to lead us into a civil war, this will not take place between Palestinians.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] Can the campaign of arrests waged by President Yasir 'Arafat guarantee that new incidents will not take place?

[Al-Husayni] These are wide-ranging arrests, and I believe that ultimately they will concern a much smaller section. I believe a great deal more information was needed to control the new situation which has apparently emerged due to an external action inside Hamas. A new organization, which differs from Hamas and the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions, has been set up under the name of Special [al-tandim al-khas] or Secret [al-tandim al-sirri] Group.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] Does this mean there are two Hamas?

[Al-Husayni] At least. Some arrests are precautionary while some are for the purpose of collecting information. Some arrests were also carried out as a result of the information provided. It was apparent to us that the major political body of Hamas had adopted a position based on democratic political opposition within the PA. This is quite acceptable. There is also a military opposition divided into three groups: One group decided to

end all military operations, another group decided to retaliate for the Abu-'Ayyash operation then stop, and a third group wants to continue. The arrests are now an operation to sort these sides from the new organization, which we believe is being controlled from abroad.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] Is this the organization which 'Arafat said is controlled by Iran?

[Al-Husayni] No. I say that the leaderships that we know inside the territories have nothing to do with this new organization, its size, and its style. It is clear that it needs a system and reactivation which do not exist inside. This new organization, which seems to have been ineffective in the beginning, is largely responsible for the recent bombings in Israel.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] Yesterday you expressed the hope that the final status negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis will take place as scheduled in May. How is this possible, with Israeli elections taking place at this time?

[Al-Husayni] The negotiations must officially start in May and, in this context, the [relevant] clause of the declaration of principles must be implemented. The Israeli elections are scheduled for the second half of May, whereas the negotiations are supposed to start in the first half. The negotiations must start as scheduled, either on 4 or 5 May, even if it is only to announce the first session, but they must start.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] During the [UNESCO] conference you said that the Palestinians' dream is that Jerusalem is for both Palestinians and Israelis. Could this dream come true?

[Al-Husayni] Many Israeli proposals are along these lines, one way or another. Some of them are open and say that this city is for you and this city is for us, and others are trying to give us alternatives inside the city. However, they all know very well that the Jerusalem issue cannot be resolved without allowing the Palestinians a specific presence. Some see a full presence such as a Palestinian capital while others want to minimize it.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] Do you think the peace process is under threat now?

[Al-Husayni] It has not been under threat only now, but for a long time. In the beginning there was some procrastination by Israel. The fact that it was not serious in facing the right-wing opposition weakened its capacity for action and gave the right more power, culminating in Yitzhak Rabin's assassination. Then this confrontation started to subside, but I believe that Peres did not hit these right-wing bases as he should, enabling

them to implicate the Israeli Government again in the new issues, first with the 'Ayyash assassination which caused the retaliations leading to the current situation.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] Do you believe that the U.S. president's visit to Israel will help reinforce Peres' position?

[Al-Husayni] There is no doubt that the Sharm al-Shaykh conference and Clinton's visit to Israel has restored some stability to the Israeli Government. However, Clinton's visit to Jerusalem, the way it was conducted, his refusal to allow the welcoming ceremonies to be held in the city but at the airport instead, and his insistence that the Jerusalem issue is to be discussed during the final phase of the negotiations, were, to a large extent, in our interest. I believe that Peres' position has improved lately, and the Palestinian measures have dispelled the notion that the Palestinians are doing nothing, and therefore if matters continue as they are Peres will be able to win.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] Do the Hamas arrests pose a threat to 'Arafat's position?

[Al-Husayni] No, because the arrests are not at random or intended to please any particular quarter. The Palestinian people have started to realize how important this is. When the situation is clearer and many of those who have been detained for preventive measures or for questioning are released, the picture will be much clearer for the Palestinian people.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] At the conference you talked about how bad the situation is in Jerusalem. Are there any developments?

[Al-Husayni] Since 1967, with the declaration of annexation of Jerusalem, Israel has been trying to change the situation in the city. We faced them with effective resistance, starting with the Islamic authority which was established to supervise the holy sites, and consequently protected these places from any Israeli interference. We then started to wage the battle of institutions. When Israel tried to take over the hospitals such as the Islamic Charity Causes hospital and tried to change the education system in Jerusalem, linking the government schools to the municipality and imposing the Israeli education system, the Jerusalem residents acted again and established private schools, boycotting the schools that Israel had taken over.

Israel was not able to infiltrate east Jerusalem, and those who knew it before 1967 and visit it now will find it unchanged. The Chamber of Commerce is still there, and the schools, hospitals, services, and culture are Arab. Israel tried to seize and expropriate lands to build settlements on them and confiscated 34 percent of the Jerusalem area. It tried to tighten the noose on us. The

population has increased from 70,000 people in 1967 to 180,000 now, but Israel allowed only 555 dwellings to be added, compared to 42,000 units built for the Israelis. And yet the Palestinians were able to build and expand, and Jerusalem and Ramallah have become two adjoining cities. When the Israelis come to Jerusalem, they will discover that it is still Arab, and this will irritate them greatly. Even the area around Jerusalem which has still not been built up is still much larger than the built-up area. For this reason Israel has tried, since before the negotiations, to reverse the course of events through carrying out the policy of blockades: The first blockade is the attempt to isolate Jerusalem from the Palestinian people and prevent the Palestinians from entering it. By doing this, it is trying to reduce the numbers of those who want to reach the holy sites, affect the services offered by the Jerusalem institutions in order to weaken them, and cut the links with the Palestinian community.

The second blockade is the blockade on the Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem by imposing high taxes on them, creating legal problems, extending the services of the Israeli institutions in east Jerusalem, and fighting the Palestinian institutions with terrorism — through demonstrations and police campaigns against them — in order to prevent Palestinians from dealing with them. The Israelis recently closed the al-Aqsa mosque. The third blockade is the attempt to isolate Jerusalem from international politics by trying to prevent any international meetings to be held in the city and in Orient House in particular, to get the world used to dealing with Jerusalem without east Jerusalem.

We are trying to face the three blockades by urging people to defy the closure decision. We have 1 million Palestinians inside Israel, whom Israel cannot prevent from reaching Jerusalem, and we are trying to attract them to the city so that many meetings are held. In this context, we have entrusted the Palestinian representative in France, Layla Shahid, with the "Yabus" [as transliterated] project. It is a culture and art festival, and we are trying to organize festivals, exhibitions, and conferences in Jerusalem to encourage our people inside Israel to come to Jerusalem and defy the closure.

At institution level, we try to appeal to all sides which can offer cultural or financial support. We have appealed to Arab countries and others. There is also the political battle around "Orient House." The UNESCO conference addressed this by urging the rallying of the nongovernmental institutions around the Orient House issue, starting the "Our Jerusalem" campaign, making arrangements for an international gathering to come to Jerusalem, and helping and supporting the Palestinian institutions.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] Do you believe that the arrest of Muhammad Dayf, the Hamas military leader, will encourage Israel to lift the blockade imposed on the Palestinian territories?

[Al-Husayni] As far as Israel is concerned, this arrest has become almost the core of the whole issue. At the Sharm al-Shaykh conference everyone, including Clinton, basically requested 'Arafat to arrest Dayf.

I believe that his arrest will refute Israel's arguments for not implementing the peace process. Will this make it implement it or will it look for another excuse? We Palestinians want to reach all the quarters trying to set themselves as a parallel authority to the PA.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] You will be meeting with Cardinal Lustiger, with National Assembly Speaker Philippe Seguin, with the head of the Arab World Institute Camille Caban [name as transliterated], and with Paris Mayor Jean Tiberi. What do you hope to achieve from these meetings?

[Al-Husayni] Because of the blockade imposed on Jerusalem, we are unable to collect the taxes that Israel is collecting and unable to collect customs duties and take money from the PA because Israel is opposed to that. The World Bank does not give Jerusalem any assistance under the pretext that the assistance goes to the PA only, and consequently, the Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem are threatened by ruin and death. Israel cannot prevent assistance which comes in the context of bilateral agreements, and hence we want to move this issue so that there is assistance from French institutions to Palestinian institutions, and from French municipalities to Jerusalem, and from the French Government directly to the Jerusalem institutions.

There is also another serious matter, and our meeting with Cardinal Lustiger will be very important because the Christian presence in Jerusalem is dwindling and there are enormous pressures on the Christians there as a result of Israeli political pressures to force them to emigrate abroad. There are also pressures on the Muslims and for Muslim emigration abroad, but the difference is that the departure of Christians is in larger numbers now, and this is very serious.

We want to preserve the Jerusalem Christian community and we believe that the international community is not doing enough in this respect.

Palestinian Affairs: Shin Bet Said To Recruit Palestinians for Terror Attacks

TA2103102696 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 21 Mar 96 p 19

[FBIS Translated Text] In a news conference held in Bethlehem yesterday, the Palestinian security services produced three residents of the al-Duhayshah refugee camp who claimed to have staged terrorist attacks in the area on behalf of the Shin Bet. This was reported last night by Qol Yisra'el.

The Palestinians said the squad members (all of them Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine activists) were recruited by the Shin Bet five years ago.

They said the squad members shot and wounded an Israeli civilian a few months ago and threw two firebombs at a joint Israeli-Palestinian Police patrol in al-Duhayshah.

The three Palestinians said their runner was a Shin Bet officer by the name of Doron who worked out of the Russian Compound in Jerusalem. They claimed to have received 400 shekels from the Shin Bet to throw the firebombs at the joint patrol but noted that the shooting of the Israeli had been their own initiative and that they did not inform the Shin Bet about it.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0900 GMT on 21 March adds: "Israeli security sources firmly deny the claim made by the Palestinian Security Services that the Israeli Shin Bet operated a squad in Bethlehem that carried out attacks on an Israeli civilian and on the joint patrols in order to embarrass the Palestinian Authority. A senior security source told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that instead of fighting terrorism, the Palestinians are spreading false stories in order to distract public opinion."]

Palestinian Affairs: PA's Nabil Sha'th Says Iran 'Far' From Hamas

NC2103103796 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 18 Mar 96 p 18

[FBIS Translated Text] In an exclusive statement to ROSE AL-YUSUF during the Sharm al-Shaykh summit, Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning for the Palestinian Authority (PA), said 50 percent of Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] money comes from remittances from the United States, while the weapons come from Israel. He said Hamas has offices worldwide while Iran is far from this now.

Sha'th added: They are now asking us to fight terrorism alone. There are strange ironies here: The United States is giving Israel equipment to fight terrorism while we

get no similar equipment. This is a joint responsibility, and our resources are limited.

Palestinian Affairs: President 'Arafat Meets With Donor States Representatives

JN2003162796 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 Mar 96

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Yasir 'Arafat demanded that donor states shoulder their responsibilities and expeditiously offer aid to the Palestinian Authority to create job opportunities to overcome the problem of unemployment caused by the siege imposed on Palestinian territories.

During a meeting today for donor states representatives, which was held at the Gaza office of Terje Larsen, coordinator of UN activities, President 'Arafat reviewed the economic effects of the Israeli military siege imposed on the Palestinian territories approximately a month ago. The meeting was also attended by Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, the minister of finance.

The president said that the Palestinian people are witnessing a very difficult economic situation as a result of Israel's siege and its ban on medicine coming into the Palestinian territories. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs: 'Urayqat Views Israeli Behavior After Summit

NC2103091896 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 21 Mar 96

[Telephone interview with Sa'ib 'Urayqat, member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, in Jerusalem, by 'Adil 'Abd-al-Tawwab, in Cairo; date not given—recorded, from the "Dialogue From Afar" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Abd-al-Tawwab] On the phone from Jerusalem, we have Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council. Welcome.

['Urayqat] Thank you.

['Abd-al-Tawwab] What do you have to say about the meeting in Washington of the follow-up committee stemming from the peacemakers summit?

['Urayqat] The Sharm al-Shaykh summit emerged with four major recommendations. The first was to strengthen agreements on the Israeli-Palestinian track. The second considered the urgent economic needs of the Palestinian people. The third was to finalize negotiations on the other tracks to establish a comprehensive peace in the

region. The fourth was to confront violence and terrorism as an international phenomenon. We want a balance among the four recommendations. But we fear that U.S. policy and policymakers are trying to underrate the importance of the first three recommendations and give all their attention to the fourth recommendation to serve election interests in the United States. Since the Sharm al-Shaykh summit the Israeli Government has been carrying out extremely indiscriminate measures, which I could safely describe as the most obvious form of organized terrorism against 2.5 million Palestinians. The Israelis have declared their war against violence but waged this war against the Palestinian Authority [PA] and against the Palestinian people, by demolishing their houses, closing their institutions, choking and starving our people, expropriating land, and continuing settlement. The negotiations, which should have continued and should have resumed after the Sharm al-Shaykh summit, remain stalled on all the Palestinian-Israeli issues. So this conference in Washington is very important for following up the recommendations. When the U.S. delegation came to Sharm al-Shaykh it issued a statement that was not at all balanced. Its main objective was to focus world attention on the suicide attacks in Israel. Actually, Egyptian diplomacy played a major role in making the summit issue its statement with the four recommendations.

What is now required on the Arab level is to follow up the summit resolutions. Since the summit Egyptian diplomacy has been preparing and working on following up all the issues to entrench the basic principle: We want to continue the peace process, because the vicious cycle of violence and counterviolence cannot be stopped except by giving everyone peace and implementing the results of the peace process to realize the just peace that guarantees the Palestinian people a safe, free, and dignified life.

[Abd-al-Tawwab] Will the Palestinian side attend this meeting?

[Urayqat] As the fifth article of the Sharm al-Shaykh summit statement stipulates, Egypt and the United States will take joint action to make the sides taking part in the summit attend the follow-up meetings to implement the recommendations.

[Abd-al-Tawwab] Will the Palestinian side be presenting any specific proposals to this meeting?

[Urayqat] As we said, the agreement between us and the Israeli side no longer exists. The Israeli Government has unilaterally decided to stop implementing the agreement. This Israeli Government is practicing the ugliest form of organized terrorism against the Palestinian people, by choking them or closing off the self-rule areas

and the crossing points, be they from Jordan, Egypt, or Israel, into the self-rule areas. There is no longer any peace for us to talk about. The most important task of the follow-up committee is to urge an immediate halt to these Israeli practices, stress the need to resume the peace process, and implement the various agreements signed among the parties, particularly with regard to redeployment in Hebron and the temporary international presence until we reach the final stage negotiations.

What I fear now is the Peres government's exploitation of the recent suicide bombings. Unfortunately, that government has been transformed internationally from the executioner to the victim. At this stage it is trying to entrench the policy of settlement, expropriation of land, and demolition of houses. They have actually gone further than that, because they have reoccupied many areas of the West Bank by military force. They are trying to reoccupy the land and turn back the hands of time. The world, in particular the U.S. Administration, is turning a blind eye to what is happening. What is required of the Arabs — and here Egypt is qualified to perform this role, particularly since the summit convened on the basis of the directives and recommendations of President Husni Mubarak — is to follow up these recommendations. The follow-up should be conducted via a united Arab stance, because, if we are talking about peace now, we could say that peace between us and the Israeli side no longer exists. Rescuing the peace process is considered to be the primary mission of the follow-up committee. The Israeli practices should be stopped as soon as possible so that the peace process gets the chance to survive. This peace process is the only thing capable of stopping the vicious cycle of violence and counter-violence. If this process collapses, everyone knows that this vicious cycle will increase and enlarge.

[Abd-al-Tawwab] What point have the Palestinian side's contacts to implement the peacemakers summit statement and resume the negotiations reached?

[Urayqat] You know that President 'Arafat holds contacts with the brothers in the Arab Republic of Egypt on a daily basis, anytime day or night. He holds talks with President Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian Foreign Ministry. There is constant coordination. We are trying to resume negotiations with the Israeli side. But so far negotiations on the political level have not resumed. There are extensive contacts between us and the European sides attending the summit. And there are contacts with the United States. But, as I said, when the various countries—Arab, European, or Asian—came to attend the Sharm al-Shaykh summit each one brought along its own agenda, problems, special considerations, and accounts. They all came seeking their personal interests. The primary interest now, as President Husni

Mubarak noted in his speech, is that the peace process must continue and the Israeli Government must realize that real peace is the only thing that leads to security. Security is not only for the Israelis, but for the Palestinian people first. The requirements of true peace are for Israel to withdraw. We must start the final stage negotiations with the Israeli side immediately so that the two peoples can finally map out their share of political responsibilities.

[Abd-al-Tawwab] As for withdrawal from Hebron, Israel is making it conditional on your arresting the leader of the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam brigades. Do you accept this request from Israel?

[Urayqat] We categorically reject this request. It is not even a request. It is a unilateral measure. As I said earlier, Israel unilaterally decided to stop implementing the agreement. It is ignoring the agreement and all the things that have been agreed on. Therefore, Israel uses the recent suicide operations to justify its breaking the agreements. If Israel does not withdraw by the deadline set for it, if the PA does not function as a temporary state, and if Israel continues its policy of repressing the Palestinian people, closing off the territories, and

demolishing homes, then I believe we no longer have a peace process. This is the message we will be conveying in Washington. The follow-up committee must pursue this, nothing more. If there is no withdrawal from Hebron then we will have no agreement and no Israeli partner in the peace process.

[Abd-al-Tawwab] What about internal Palestinian issues? Now, with the formation of the Palestinian Legislative Council, is it not time to form the PA Council of Ministers?

[Urayqat] President 'Arafat has been carrying out days of extensive and deep discussions to form the new Council of Ministers. I believe that within the next few days, let us say within the next 10 days or so, an official announcement will be made and the Palestinian government will be presented to the Legislative Council.

[Abd-al-Tawwab] Dear brothers, we thank Dr. Sa'ib Urayqat, a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, who was with us on the phone from Jerusalem.

[Urayqat] Thank you.

Algeria

Algeria: FIS European Supporters Issue Newsletter
 MS2003144196 Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT
 in English 5 Mar 96

[Newsletter "publicizing the Islamic Struggle in Algeria" published by the Islamic Salvation Front "supporters in Europe" — quotation marks as received; passages in double parentheses received in brackets; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Editorial: The political immobilism of the Generals masked by perpetually praising november elections!

Praise be to Allah,

The military regime in Algeria is exhausted having to face a "war" in many fronts simultaneously.

First and most importantly the armed struggle which is "eating up" most of the financial resources and which is highlighting day after day the Generals false pretention of being in control and that there is only a "residual terrorism" that will be dealt with quickly. This "quickly" has in fact lasted more than four years and observers have come to the conclusion that the declarations of appeasement have a well defined objective that of "trapping" foreign investments and financial loans. Even the Algerian community overseas is now being targeted to "snatch" from it what they can in terms of hard currency.

The military Generals are also facing internal conflicts in between the "traditional clans" at the head of each is an influent General or a group of Generals. This power struggle has become more fierce following the last November elections which a particular clan wants to use to diminish the others influence. The reaction of the targeted clan is that of someone sensing being dragged to death. Being militarily the most powerful on ground, the targeted clan is countering every action of the first. This "game of arm-wrestling" between influential clans of Generals have paralysed the regime politically. Another emerging conflict with unpredictable consequences is coming from young and more competent officers who are exasperated by the incapacity of their "superiors" to bring peace in Algeria particularly after the rapidly died away hope generated by the November elections. They blame the Generals for the four years psychological ordeal of a war they see as endless and with no winners. The Generals are more and more singled out as "the real problem of Algeria", particularly when competent officers are passing away and sometimes under very suspicious conditions.

The military regime is facing an ever growing social distress caused principally by the rerouting of financial

funds from people basic needs to that of sustaining the war effort. The incompetency of the new government has made things worst by going as far as wanting to cut the workers wages in an economical environment characterised by hyperinflation, negative growth and an ever increasing unemployment rate. The Algerian workers seem to be mobilised to fight for their rights and to counter all manoeuvres aiming at weakening their unity of action. Recently a few military planes and helicopters have been gunned down. The most important one being that of Ain Defla few days ago which was full of high ranking officers. This operation has received a surprising widespread approval from a population which all this time, has been made the first victim of the conflict more for the purpose of dissociating it from the armed struggle than anything else. The lost of hope of the population which seems to have been once more betrayed by the november elections, is portrayed by what an old woman has said in the regime TV about General Zeroual few days ago (why was it allowed to be broadcasted is another question about the regime internal conflict in every section of the repressive apparatus!). The woman was asked: "You think president Zeroual will "hold" the country, don't you?". Here the word "hold" in the Algerian everyday language means "to lead" as well as the literal meaning of "to hold". The old woman answered spontaneously "he (Gen. Zeroual) should try to hold his own head before trying to hold the country!" making allusion to Gen. Zeroual's habit of constantly shacking [shaking] his head while making speeches in the literal sense as well as pointing to his incapacity of commanding, metaphorically. Behind this banal anecdote lies a real increase in Gen. Zeroual unpopularity and this explains the regime propaganda machine eternal reference to November elections as if some concrete achievement has been accomplished through them. The people in general have developed a felling as if the regime is saying to them: "you have voted for us in november! So good night, have sweet dreams and see you in five years time... maybe!"

The regime is also facing the political class but not as an opposition with which a solution can be found for the country. No! The regime is at war with the opposition, it wants to weaken it, disintegrate it, domesticate it, use it, abuse it, dominate it,... In this, is the incompetency of the military regime. It shows its shortsighted vision or rather blindness. The Generals do not seem to have noticed that the Algerian people are watching. They know which is the opposition and which is not. The "social weather forecast" is announcing unpredictable storms. Who is going to "manage" the coming "popular inundations" most certainly stronger than that of October 88? The members of the Junta

parliament? Those who have accepted to "play" the november elections? The FLN new general secretary Benhamouda the ex-financial minister or the secret police (S.M) officer and "influant" member of the FLN central committee Benaouda or is it the intriguer in the generals' pocket ex-minister and member of the new FLN bureau Benayat?

The Algerian people have always respected those who respect them. Supporting, accepting and justifying the military coup against their free choice of December 1991 has never and will never be counted as a sign of respect. On the contrary!

News of Jihad and Mujahedeen!

"To those against whom war is made, permission is given (to fight) because they are wronged, and verily, Allah is Most powerful for their aid" ((Koran, Surat Al Hajj,22:39))

"we don't like to " beat around the bush ", we prefer clarity and frankness even if it means to be hanged for what we believe to be a duty and a right. The struggle against the regime of the military junta has become a legitimate and lawful duty as demonstrated previously, in order to "grab" the right of the people to freely choose. " ((Shaykh Abu Abdelfatah ALI BELHADJ in " Fasl el kalam fi mouajahate dolm el hokam " ("The conclusive criterion in confronting injustice from the rulers"), page 303. Book written from cell No 09 in the Blida Military jail. 1992))

News have reached "The Enlightenment" concerning the "lion of the Casbah", brother Azzeddine known as "Hacen Fliche" who was killed few days ago during a military operation. May Allah accept him and all the brothers as martyrs. Amine.

Chlef: An armed militia man was shot dead near the train station of Oued Sly.

Boukadir: The Islamic Salvation Army (AIS) El Inkad unite has set an ambush to a group of armed militia in the road to Oued Rhio at precisely the road to Eramka. Four armed militia have perished and a fifth one was wounded.

Oued Rhio: A crossfire has taken place between the Mujahedeen and the Junta gendarmes. Two gendarmes have perished. A Junta mobile patrol was attacked in the centre of the city. Two soldiers have perished and a third one wounded. Their weapons were collected.

Ghelizan: A heavy fighting took place in the locality of Zemoura near Oued Khilouf, between a mujahedeen unite of the AIS and the Junta army. 8 Junta soldiers have perished and four Mujahedeen were killed may Allah accept them as Martyrs.

Constantine: The Mujahedeen of the AIS have set up an ambush to a junta patrol in the Sidi Rached bridge. Four junta soldiers have perished. In another operation which took place in the locality of Djebel El Ouahch, fifteen Junta soldiers have perished.

Ghardaia: A military plane has crashed on the 19/02/96 near the southern city of Guardaia having aboard 17 officers, 29 subaltern officers and 49 soldiers.

Boufarik: Two armed militia were shot dead while they were concentrating in stealing oranges from one of the gardens. Their weapon were collected.

Guelma: In a big military operation launched by a unite of the Islamic Salvation army, a radar station was targeted. 17 soldiers have perished in the operation.

Souk Ahras: The Mujahedeen of the AIS in reaction to a Junta attack in the region of Souk Ahras has destroyed a heavy military equipment and its four operators using explosives.

Saida: In a military operation which took place in the locality of Ouled Hsassna, 50 Junta soldiers have perished.

Opinion: The Algerian situation!

In this section, opinions on the Algeria situation is presented from observers of different political sensibility in order to provide the reader with a much wider look at the complex situation in Algeria. Opinion and analysis presented in this section do not necessary represent that of "The Enlightenment". Following is an analysis of the Algerian situation as seen by Saleh Darwish of the daily ASHARQ AL-AWSAT newspaper.

(President Gen. Liamine Zeroual's failure to undertake any political initiative or introduce the changes that had been expected in state institutions following his election last November have deepened Algeria's four-year-old crisis, according to Algerian affairs specialist Qusai Saleh Darwish. [no ending parenthesis as received])

Writing in the Saudi pan-Arab daily Asharq al-Awsat Wednesday, Paris-based Darwish finds it indicative that the General Union of Algerian Workers (UGTA) should have announced a two-day strike on Sunday night, the very day Algiers was rocked by two car bombs that left around 20 people killed and 100 injured.

UGTA declared a strike on Tuesday and Wednesday in protest at a decision by Prime Minister Ahmed Ouyahia to cut the salaries of civil servants over a period of nearly one year to pay the overdue wages of over 200,000 workers in state institutions, chiefly construction workers.

(The strike call was widely observed on Tuesday, prompting Ouyahia to postpone the proposed deductions from the end of February to March, at the same time extending the period during which they will remain in effect from December 1996 to January 1997.)

The announcement of the strike on the day of the bombings (which targeted a town hall in the Islamist stronghold of Bab el-Oued and a press center in Belcourt district where the country's major newspapers are based) signals that the Algerian crisis may be at a crucial turning point, writes Darwish. Over the past four years, terrorism and the security situation topped all concerns, preventing a social "explosion" despite soaring prices, rising unemployment and a deepening housing crisis. This time round, however, the "thunder" of the social crisis rose above the echo of the bomb blasts despite the horror of the crime, while questions were whispered about the link between the two outrages and Ouyahia's decision which united Algerians against the government and the regime in general.

While it is difficult to detect an organic link between the two events, they have something in common in that they both lack logic, says Darwish.

Some Algerian circles and some observers accuse the security agencies — or at least an extremist wing in the military hierarchy [transmission ends]

Egypt

Egypt: Al-Baz—Turkey, Iran Should Be Involved in Shaping Peace

NC2103085896 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0607 GMT 21 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 21 Mar (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has noted the need for non-Arab parties, not just Israel, to participate in envisioning the future of peace.

He said two important countries, Turkey and Iran, each of which must present its notion of the peace culture so that we can draw up a vision of the future, must search for a concept to solve conflicts peacefully, reach a point common to all the parties, and agree that force should not be used in settling conflicts.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM published today, al-Baz called on intellectuals to present their concept of the peace culture and their vision of achieving a just and equitable peace based on respect for rights and commitment to duties.

Dr. al-Baz went on to say: We have entered the peace process started by Egypt, which took the leading and

positive step in this direction. He added: The concept is based on respect for rights and principles and commitment to international legitimacy and international terms of reference, that is, UN resolutions. It is also based on balance and fairness, not on a peace in which one party has the upper hand over another.

He said: We deal with Israel on the premise that we were two parties involved in an exhausting and destructive conflict and then decided to end the conflict to help the whole region toward a better situation and toward ending the state of war. He stressed that now we must think about formulating a concept of life in the region in future and drawing up its clear outline.

Dr. al-Baz also stressed that peace should not be limited to Egypt and Israel, but should include all the Arab and non-Arab countries in the region.

In his interview with AL-AHRAM, al-Baz went on to say: For peace to be regionally based, we must help to achieve peace in every country. He noted that every country's social peace is extremely important. He added that social peace will require efforts to combat terrorism, noninterference in other countries' affairs, and respect for states' sovereignty.

Egypt: Al-Baz on Peacemakers Summit Achievements

NC2003150296 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1310 GMT 20 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Aswan, 20 Mar (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has stated that the peacemakers summit in Sharm al-Shaykh succeeded in keeping the regional peace process in motion and in improving the Palestinian situation.

He said the Palestinian people can never forget the role Egypt played when it called for the summit. It led to an improvement in the harsh living conditions forced on the Palestinian people following recent suicide operations, he said, adding that a relative improvement has been registered and that Israel has eased the security measures, recently allowing the passage of foodstuffs and staples and letting Palestinian workers enter the industrial zone on the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel. Al-Baz added that Israel also allowed the export of Palestinian crops and lifted the ban on travel between the Palestinian villages and cities.

These remarks were made during a meeting with students and professors at Janub al-Wadi University in Aswan. The meeting was attended by University Chairman Dr. 'Arafat Muhammad Kamil.

Dr. al-Baz said President Mubarak recently sent several messages to the Israeli prime minister, the last of which was sent the day before yesterday. It urged the Israeli prime minister to show self-restraint vis-a-vis the shelling of the northern areas of Israel. The messages reiterated Egypt's desire to maintain the peace process and avert a setback.

The peacemakers summit in Sharm al-Shaykh last Wednesday [13 March] was the first international conference to be chaired and run successfully and efficiently by the president of an Arab-Islamic state, al-Baz said. President Mubarak should be credited for this, he added.

Dr. Al-Baz noted that Egypt and the Arab states taking part in the summit succeeded in defending Islam before the world as a heavenly religion marked by tolerance, a religion that has no relation with terrorism. He said that during the conference Egypt persuaded several European participants to cooperate with Arab states in fighting terrorism by refraining from sheltering terrorists and financing the activities they conduct from these states. They all agreed that fighting terrorism does not conflict with human rights, al-Baz said.

Dr. al-Baz remarked that the Sharm al-Shaykh summit demonstrated to the world Egypt's central and basic role in the region, confirming that no power is capable of limiting or diminishing this role. The Egyptian people determine the Egyptian role, he stressed.

He said the conference served the interests of the Egyptian people and their culture, civilization, and politics. Egypt will reap the fruit of the tourist propaganda generated by the conference, he said.

Usamah al-Baz added that the summit revealed the capabilities and greatness of the Egyptian people through their handling of the event and reception of the heads and members of 32 delegations. He denied rumors that the summit cost Egypt millions of pounds, pointing out that it cost only 117,787 pounds. He explained that Egypt hosted the heads of states only and did not pay for the accommodation of delegation members or media men. He said the taxes collected on the hotel bills paid by the delegation members and reporters and the communications they used brought in six times the amount spent on the summit.

Concerning the political strategy that will be pursued, Dr. al-Baz said Egypt is following up the points included in the final statement of the peacemakers conference. He pointed out that the working group formed by the conference will hold its first meeting on 28 March in Washington.

Al-Baz added that Egypt is following the peace process attentively, particularly the implementation of the agree-

ments signed by the Palestinian Authority and Israel prior to beginning negotiations on the permanent status of the West Bank and Gaza. He said Egypt is also seeking to revive negotiations on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

Commenting on newspaper reports of discussions at the closed session at the Summit of Peacemakers, Dr. al-Baz said: There was only a brief speech by President Clinton followed by a speech by King Husayn. Then President Mubarak read the final statement once it was approved by delegates. President Mubarak and President Clinton signed the statement. Russian President Boris Yeltsin asked to sign the statement if there was room for one more signature. He then signed it.

Al-Baz said that in the final analysis the conference benefited the entire region and was certainly good for the Arabs.

Asked about Egypt's position on the proliferation of nuclear weapons and some neighboring countries' refusal to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Dr. al-Baz said: We adhere to our longstanding opposition to the proliferation of nuclear weapons. We oppose any country's continuing possession of such weapons, because this constitutes a form of pressure on other countries that do not possess them.

Dr. al-Baz emphasized that Egypt objects to the possession of nuclear weapons by any country in this region or elsewhere. He said that this form of armament must be eliminated, adding: We urge the big powers to abandon nuclear weapons gradually, because they pose a major threat to international peace and security.

Dr. al-Baz denied reports that Egypt is planning to establish a military alliance with Turkey and Israel and remarked: Egypt will never establish a military alliance with these or any other countries. He explained that Egypt is linked with the fraternal Arab countries by the Joint Arab Defense Pact and any reports about military alliances are mere rumor. He pointed out that Turkey and Israel know this Egyptian position.

Asked by a student about the country's economic reform and privatization policy, Dr. Usamah al-Baz said that Egypt's economic reform policy is an Egyptian policy that is being implemented for the good of the Egyptian people, not for the good of the World Bank, the IMF, or any other foreign institution. He explained that Egypt does not allow anyone to give it instructions or dictate policies to it.

He added that privatization in Egypt means giving the private sector the opportunity to operate and invest with total freedom and without complications. He said the government's current inclination is to give more

facilities to investors so that they can create jobs for young people, declaring that Egypt needs 500,000 new jobs annually. He said: We need to do this to keep Egypt strong and solve the unemployment problem, particularly in Upper Egypt's provinces, by encouraging small, productive projects that are labor-intensive and do not need much technology.

On the public sector projects that will be sold to the private sector, he said: No one abroad dictates to us the state-owned projects that we will sell. We are carrying out this process to the extent that serves our national interest and in a way that does not harm the workers, consumers, or industrial output.

Egypt: Cabinet Views Summit Outcome, Other Issues

*NC2003155996 Cairo MENA in English
1510 GMT 20 Mar 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, March 20 (MENA)—The Cabinet examined during its meeting here today under Prime Minister Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri the outcome of the summit of the peacemakers, which was staged in the Red Sea resort of Sharm al-Shaykh last Wednesday [13 March].

The cabinet asserted that the political outcome of the summit will have its positive bearings on Egypt's political and economic relations.

It also emphasises Egypt's pivotal role in the region and its leverage and it earns Egypt its deserved status on the global map, the Cabinet said.

It is important to follow up attentively the implementation of the summit resolutions through the mechanisms formed by the world leaders who participated in the summit, Minister of Information Safwat al-Sharif said after the meeting.

The Cabinet hailed the summit resolutions that came to serve peace, salvage the peace march on the Palestinian track, back up security and stability and eradicate terrorism, which has become an international phenomenon that is not confined to Arabs and Muslims, al-Sharif added.

The cabinet reviewed the outcome of Turkish President Suleyman Demirel's visit to Egypt and his talks with President Hosni Mubarak in Aswan yesterday, al-Sharif said.

Also discussed were the preparations for the meetings of the higher Egyptian-Turkish committee shortly and ways to develop the friendship agreement signed by the two countries in 1937 to cope with the current changes on the international scene, the information minister said.

Preparations are also under way for concluding a trade agreement between Egypt and Turkey, expanding the spectrum of cooperation, investment and joint venture fields and signing the agreement of electric interconnection, al-Sharif said.

The cabinet continued its discussion of the report of the ministerial group for the promotion of exports and issued a number of decisions to achieve this objective, the information minister said.

Local products will be granted the same exemptions given to the oil sector and the different fees imposed by administrative agencies will be cancelled while existing production units will be upgraded to further improve quality, he added.

A number of free zones will be established in the vicinity of ports and furnished with the different utilities and a basic data network will be set up for exporters, al-Sharif said.

Egypt: 'Arafat on Extremists, Israeli Measures, Charter Amendment

*NC2103074096 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0625 GMT 21 Mar 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 21 Mar (MENA) — Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat called for a meeting of the Arab parties that participated in the Sharm al-Shaykh summit of peacemakers in order to coordinate their positions before the summit's follow up committee meets in Washington later this month.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM published today, Thursday [21 March], 'Arafat said: It is important that we coordinate as Arabs before the Washington meeting so that the results of the committee meetings will be beneficial because the conditions we are experiencing require this coordination.

'Arafat thanked Egypt and President Hosni Mubarak for their efforts to hold and ensure the success of the Sharm al-Shaykh summit and for their speedy delivery of Egyptian food aid to the Palestinian people despite the Israeli siege that is nearing its fourth week.

'Arafat said that the Sharm al-Shaykh summit's importance lies in its confrontation of the attempts to destroy the peace process and in protecting it, and, therefore, in consolidating peace in the region. The summit's is also important because of its drawing up of all the conditions for this process' success on all tracks, including the Syrian and Lebanese ones, and for following up on the Palestinian track, which is now facing a grave crisis that aims at destroying its achievements.

'Arafat called on the Arab and friendly countries to come quickly to the aid of the Palestinian people in its present difficult tribulation resulting from the Israeli air, land, and sea siege.

The Palestinian president regretted the existence of a clear and confirmed coordination between the Israeli extremist forces and their Palestinian counterparts, referring to the statement made by the leader of the extremist Eyal organization who admitted that there is coordination between his organization and the Islamic Jihad and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] organizations.

'Arafat stressed that the extremist Palestinian organizations have weapons that only the Israeli army uses and that these weapons have been seized and confiscated, including the antiarmor "LAW" missiles and its training equipment. He noted that such weapons can only be obtained from highly influential groups on the Israeli side.

The Palestinian president also stressed that the Palestinian Authority has done, is doing, and will continue to do its best to confront the terrorist actions that do not threaten the Israelis as much as they do the Palestinian people, the Palestinian dream, and the Palestinian state with its capital Jerusalem.

He also stressed his complete rejection of the Israeli Government's collective punishment against the Palestinian people, workers, and children under the pretext of security. He noted that this punishment has gone to the extent of preventing food and medicine from reaching the Palestinian people, adding that this is a direct threat to the peace process.

'Arafat went on to say: The massacres of al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem and the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron by extremist Jews did not prevent us as Palestinians and Arabs from continuing with and bolstering the peace process.

On holding a meeting for the Palestine National Council to amend the charter, 'Arafat said that this issue is one of the points of agreement with the Israelis and that the council will meet when all its members are allowed to enter the territories under normal circumstances.

Egypt: Israeli Envoy Cited on Talks With Official, Peace Summit

NC2003152296 Cairo MENA in English
1430 GMT 20 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, March 20 (MENA)—Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Nihad 'Abd-al-Latif today met with Israeli Ambassador to Egypt David Sultan.

The talks dealt with several issues of common interest, including the outcome of the peacemakers summit, held in Sharm al-Shaykh last week, Ambassador Sultan said. The talks also dealt with bilateral ties, Ambassador Sultan added.

The Israeli ambassador said that both sides voiced their satisfaction over the Sharm al-Shaykh summit's results, which he termed as very positive. The resolutions adopted regarding condemnation of all sorts of terrorism will be discussed during the talks of the committee due to meet shortly in Washington, he added.

Ambassador Sultan reiterated the necessity of confronting terrorism and violence in all countries of the region, especially that terrorism becomes an international phenomenon.

Sharm al-Shaykh summit had a positive response to promote the Mideast peace process which has been recently stalled, Israeli Ambassador Sultan further said, noting that the peacemakers summit provided a new atmosphere to maintain the peace march.

Ambassador Sultan voiced his hope that the peace negotiations on the Palestinian-Israeli track would be resumed shortly. The Israeli siege imposed on Palestinian self-rule areas was due to mere security reasons, Ambassador Sultan added, noting that there is no other cause. The siege will be lifted when security conditions are suitable, Ambassador Sultan said.

The military closure was eased following Sharm al-Shaykh summit, he said, noting that Israeli authorities allowed food to Palestinians and also permitted Palestinians to enter areas near Erez checkpoint. More Palestinians will be allowed shortly to go to their work, he added.

Libya

Libya: JANA—Clinton Statement Confirms 'Malicious Attitude' Toward Arabs

LD1903192396 Tripoli JANA in English
1736 GMT 19 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, al Rabia [Mar] 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The American president has renewed America's infinite support for the Israeli enemy and America's protection for their security. The American president added in a speech he delivered before Jewish Fund raising party in favour of the Israeli enemy that those Arabs who took part in Sharm al-Shaykh conference have the desire to deal with the Israelis.

The American president statement before the Jewish organization comes within the preparations for the

coming presidential election campaign to attract the votes of American Jews.

The American President statement also confirms the extent of the western malicious attitude towards the Arab nation. It confirms as well what we have stated before, that Sharm al-Shaykh conference was basically dedicated to benefit the Israelis and that America and the west are acting to strengthen the Israeli enemy with the aim of controlling the whole Arab area.

Sudan

Sudan: NIF Reportedly Threatens To Attack U.S. Interests

NC2103104295 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic
18 Mar 96 p 27

[Report by Sa'idah Ramadan]

[FBIS Translated Text] The ruling Sudanese National Islamic Front (NIF) led by Hasan al-Turabi has threatened to establish an armed organization called "The Armed Islamic Group" [al-jama'ah al-islamiyah al-musallahah] to prepare attacks against U.S. interests and against opponents of the Front's rule.

The new organization is expected to have Afghan Arabs [Arabs who fought in Afghanistan] as its members. The idea of the new organization was raised at the meetings of the Executive Council of the NIF Shura Committee.

Sudan: Former President Denies Plan To Return to Khartoum

NC2003132096 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1200 GMT 20 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Mar (MENA)—Former Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri denied reports about his return to Khartoum to live under al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime. He added that his return would mean the downfall of all these people, noting that he is definitely going back, but by order of the Sudanese people.

In an interview with the weekly AL-MUSAWWAR, to be published on Friday [15 March], Numayri disclosed that Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir phoned him while he was in the United States for medical treatment. During the call, Numayri added, al-Bashir tried to get across a message; namely, that Sudan was drowning and that he, Numayri, had to save it. The purpose of the call, which seemed an innocent inquiry about my health, was to use my old and well-established relations with some U.S. officials to end the deterioration in relations between the two countries, he added. Numayri expressed the belief that the call had to do with reports

about the United States' endorsement of a plan to impose an economic embargo against Sudan.

Asked about the nature of al-Bashir's offer, Numayri said the offer was not very clear. Al-Bashir seemed to want to do more than just inquire about my health. I think that his aim was to try to use my Arab, Islamic, and international connections to break the isolation of his regime. Numayri described the recent presidential election in Sudan as a an attempt to cover up for and beautify the regime. Even in this the regime was unsuccessful, he added. He asked: Where were the programs and candidates?

Regarding the three suspects in the attempt on the life of President Husni Mubarak, the former Sudanese president stressed that they are in Sudan, where they enjoy its protection. He added: Maybe the Security Council resolution will get some of them out of the country before the sanctions.

Sudan: OAU Secretary General Cited on UN Resolution 1044

NC2003153096 Cairo MENA in English
1419 GMT 20 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, March 20 (MENA)—It is not true that the international community stands against Sudan because of antipathy to its Islamic oriented government, Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Secretary General Salim Ahmed Salim said.

In an interview appearing in today's local non-governmental newspaper AKHBAR AL-YAWM, Salim, who visited Sudan recently, intimated that a number of Islamic member states of the international Security Council voted in favour of UN Resolution 1044.

The issue at question is not that of a conflict between Sudan and Ethiopia or Sudan and Egypt, he said. It is that of an attempt on the life of an African president which is a very vital question that concerns the entire continent, he added.

Salim said that his visit to Sudan aimed at drawing Khartoum regime's attention to the seriousness and danger of the situation and the importance of its cooperation and of doing everything possible to avoid any more complications.

He told the paper that he is not assigned to prepare any report. The truth is that the UN secretary general has requested the OAU's cooperation with the Security Council, especially as all the parties to the conflict are OAU members, he said.

In this particular case, and though the matter out of the organisation's hand, the OAU secretary general stressed the necessity of containing African conflicts within an African framework.

On whether the Security Council could impose sanctions against Sudan if it failed to find the three suspects in the attempt on the life of President Husni Mubarak, Salim said it is impossible to speculate what would happen precisely. But, it is important to avoid this sanctions scenario, he said. It is always hard to lift sanctions after their imposition on any country, he said.

The OAU chief said that he asserted to President 'Umar al-Bashir during their meeting on Monday [17 March] the importance of ironing out all differences between Sudan and each of Eritrea, Ethiopia and Egypt.

He underscored the need to shun all differences to make from Africa a strong continent.

Sudan: Official Says Government in Touch With Garang Rebel Group

EA2003191996 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Lino Rol Deng, the secretary general of the Supreme Council for Peace, has

declared that the government is persevering with its intensive contacts with the various rebel factions with a view to reaching a solution to the southern problem. His excellency said in a press statement that the government is in agreement with many of these factions about the need to stop the war. He added: We are awaiting a new initiative from rebel Garang's faction, which has not until now agreed with the government to activate peace moves over the next two weeks.

He said that one of the tasks of the incoming government, which will have been directly mandated by the people, will be serious consideration of ways to solve the southern problem. He reaffirmed the government's support for the IGADD [Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development] initiative as an African attempt to solve the problem within the African house.

His Excellency reiterated Sudan's reservations toward Eritrea and Uganda because of their hostile attitude toward the Sudanese Government and their support for the rebels.

He added that the coming stage would witness true development toward achieving peace in the country.

Bahrain**Bahrain: Electrical Power Station Firebombed; Violence Continues***NC2103112096 Paris AFP in English
1048 GMT 21 Mar 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manama, March 21 (AFP) — Militants fire-bombed electric installations in Bahrain on Thursday (21 March), rupturing power but causing no injuries, a Bahraini official said.

"Some people threw Molotov cocktails and then fled," said an official at the electric power distribution station in the Sitrah district, damaging transformers and briefly cutting off electricity.

Electric cables were also fire-bombed in Sitrah, a district with a strong concentration of Shiite Moslems south of Manama, the official said.

The situation was tense in other Shiite areas such as Sanabis, Jidd Hafs and al-Diraz.

Police vans and troops armed with automatic weapons patrolled the areas while guards were stationed at the entrance to schools where students and police clashed on Sunday and Wednesday. Thursday and Friday are days off in Bahrain.

A 10-year-old boy was injured Wednesday when fire-bombs were thrown into the playground at the Samahij government-run school at al-Muharraq, an islet with a majority Shiite population connected to the main island of Bahrain by a bridge.

State schools in Shiite Moslem areas were placed under tight security on Tuesday after anti-government demonstrations by students.

The protests resulted in the arrest of scores of students in secondary schools, residents in the Shiite district of al-Diraz said.

Bahrain has been struck by a wave of violence over the last 15 months that has killed 21 people.

Political unrest erupted in December 1994 after the mainly Sunni Moslem authorities arrested a Shiite Moslem cleric, Shaykh 'Ali Salman, who demanded the restoration of parliament suspended in 1975.

Bahrain: Source Says Confessions of Terrorist Group Recorded*JN2003185296 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1745 GMT 20 Mar 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 20 Mar (WAKH) — A responsible Interior Ministry source said the confessions of four members of a terrorist group arrested earlier

by security agencies were recorded in the presence of an investigating judge. The group set fire to al-Zaytun Restaurant in Sitrah Wadiyan on 13 March. Seven innocent people were killed in the incident. The source added that the other suspects are being interrogated before recording their confessions.

In a statement to WAKH, the source said the four suspects live in the Sutrah region. The suspects are 'Ali Ahmad 'Abdallah al-'Asfur, 31, laborer; Ahmad Khalil Ibrahim al-Kattab, 30, laborer; Qumbar Khamis 'Ali Qumbar, 22, laborer; and Khalil Ibrahim 'Abdallah Khamis, 21, laborer.

In their confessions, the suspects said they had set fire to the restaurant and its personnel to terrorize civilians and disrupt security and stability in the country. The suspects said they had made prior arrangements and assigned roles and then prepared the molotov cocktails and other necessary tools to commit this crime. They said they went to the restaurant at the set time. They broke into the restaurant after putting on masks. Then, they spilled gas and threw the molotov cocktails. A fire broke out in the restaurant and those who were inside burned to death. The group then fled the scene.

Concluding, the responsible source said the intensive efforts and investigations by the security agencies after the incident helped in the swift arrest of the culprits. The Ministry of Interior would like to reassure citizens and residents in the country that security men continue to perform their duties all over the country to maintain security and safety. The security agencies will continue to take the necessary measures to maintain the security and safety of all people and to protect public and private property. The security agencies will firmly face the elements of sabotage and terrorism.

Yemen**Yemen: Saudi-Yemeni Maritime Border Demarcation Committee Concludes***LD2003200296 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
1608 GMT 20 Mar 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Sanaa, 20 Mar — The second session of the joint Saudi-Yemeni committee in charge of marking the maritime borders ended its proceedings in Sanaa today. The Saudi delegation was chaired by Dr. Muhammad 'Amr Madani and the Yemeni delegation was chaired by Husayn 'Ali al-Habishi. The following press statement was released at the end of the session:

The second session of the joint Saudi-Yemeni committee in charge of demarcating the maritime borders ended its proceedings, which were held in Sanaa from

29 Shawwal to 1 Dhi al-Qa'da 1416/AH — corresponding to 18-20 March 1996. The Saudi delegation was chaired by his excellency Dr. Muhammad 'Amr Madani, the Saudi ambassador, while the Yemeni delegation was chaired by Professor Husayn 'Ali al- Habishi, the legal adviser. In an atmosphere of sincere and fraternal understanding, an exchange of viewpoints took place on how the committee should proceed in the implementation of the missions delegated to it, in accordance with the memorandum of understanding signed between the two countries.

At the end of their discussions, the chairmen of the two delegations signed the minutes of this session

and agreed the venue of the third session will be in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 7 Safar 1417/AH, corresponding to 22 January 1997. The Saudi delegation expressed its sincere thanks for the warm welcome and for the kind hospitality it received during its visit to its second country, the Republic of Yemen. The Yemeni delegation expressed its welcome for the the holding of the next session in the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

Iraq: Saddam's Son 'Uday To Assume 'Greater Responsibilities'*MM2103112496 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Mar 96 p 2*

[Unattributed report: "Qusayy Takes Charge of 'Saddam's Fedayeen'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed Iraqi sources acquainted with events inside Iraq have said that Qusayy Saddam Husayn has taken charge of the "Saddam's Fedayeen" forces from his brother 'Udayy in order to incorporate them — administratively and militarily — into the special security organ headed by Qusayy.

The sources stressed that Saddam Husayn is preparing his eldest son, 'Udayy, for greater responsibilities, especially as he has now relinquished the cultural assembly (al-tajammu' al-thaqafi), dissolved its organizations, and pulled out of the Iraqi journalists association. The sources believe that 'Udayy has withdrawn from and sacrificed weak positions for the sake of bigger and stronger positions in the leadership.

Iraq: INC Statement Says Iraqi Officer Defects, Joins Opposition*NC2003220096 Paris AFP in English 2055 GMT 20 Mar 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubai, March 20 (AFP)—A senior Iraqi officer, General Nizar Khazraji, has defected to Jordan and joined the Iraqi opposition in exile, the Iraqi National Congress (INC) said Wednesday (20 March).

The London-based INC, a leading Iraqi opposition group, said in a statement received here that Khazraji was the commander of the seventh army division at al-Sulaymaniyah in Iraqi Kurdistan, during the 1980-88 Iraq-Iran war.

The general defected to Jordan from Mosul in northern Iraq, said the statement, which did not indicate the date of his arrival.

The Iraqi general, a Shiite Muslim from southern Iraq, was promoted to general by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and held this post until the end of the Gulf war.

During uprisings in Iraq in 1991 that followed the US-led liberation of Kuwait, Khazraji was injured and captured before being freed and brought to Baghdad.

Iraq: Foreign Minister Protests U-2 Plane Overflights*JN2003174696 Baghdad INA in English 1130 GMT 20 Mar 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, March 20, INA—Iraq denounced vehemently U.S. reconnaissance plane (U-2) violation of its airspace under the pretext of aerial survey for the UN Special Commission.

In a letter addressed to President of the Security Council Legwaila Joseph Legwaila, Iraq's Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said this plane which stemmed from Saudi territories continued its violations of Iraq's airspace.

Through 287 sorties fulfilled by the plane since its first flying in August 1991, hours of its flying amounted 1,302 hours till the end of last February 1996, he added.

The minister stressed, the insistence on using this plane has implied political motives for states to which it belongs.

We would like to refer this time to the obvious admission made by U.S. Defense Minister William Perry at the Academy of Near East Studies in Washington on February 6, 1996, in which he said, his country is really involved in actions aimed to endanger Iraq's security and safety, he added.

Al-Sahhaf confirmed, one of the important means adopted by the U.S. to fulfill the motive mentioned by its defense minister is the hovering of the U-2 plane and what it gathers of intelligence information about Iraq.

The minister urged the UN to review this subject for it contradicts the motives and convictions of the UN charter. He confirmed Iraq's right in demanding compensations for the financial damage caused by this action.

Iraq protested anew against the U.S., French, and British planes' violations of its airspace for observation and provocation purposes.

In a letter addressed to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, Iraq's representative to the UN Nizar Hamdun pointed out, these planes had fulfilled 919 sorties over the period 1-15 of March 1996 above cities and towns of the northern and southern regions in Iraq causing horror among their citizens and financial losses of the private and public properties.

Mr. Hamdun demanded the stoppage of these actions which threatened Iraq's sovereignty and the unity of its territories for they are blatant contravention of the UN Charter and orders of the international law. He stressed

Iraq's right in demanding legal compensations of these damages caused by these planes' violations.

He called for adopting this letter as one of the Security Council's documents to get it acquainted with these regretting facts.

Iraq: Article Views Baghdad's Position on UNSC Resolution 986

96LH0150A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
23 Feb 96 p 15

[Article by Raghidah Dargham in New York: "Freeing the People From Their Suffering — Will It Free the Iraqi Regime?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The second act of the play "The Court" in Baghdad, in which the miracle of the return of the President's son-in-law and daughter occurred, was not as amazing as the first act. The two families sought asylum (with prior connivance) in Amman, , and then returned to Baghdad with a careful and useful amnesty; the "star" son-in-law, Husayn Kamil, reviewed his advantages locally as well as regionally and internationally. The "main character," Saddam Husayn, sat on the throne of the imaginary stage, while the real drama was played out by the spectators in Iraq. The true subject remained whether the political leadership would agree to sell limited amounts of oil to start handling the terrible human suffering, and whether the other countries active in those resolutions affecting Iraq would applaud in admiration at the play, or laugh at it, or take the real responsibility for the crisis to help the Iraqis in their gloomy predicament.

What is happening around Iraq arouses as much worry as what is happening inside Iraq. Neither a regional and international decision to coexist with Saddam Husayn's regime nor one to topple him, was taken in the context of the strategic decision, nor did the regional meeting agree clearly on either option. What is more worrying is the fact that some officials are leaking news of a "plan" to topple Saddam, as if the toppling of regimes is accomplished by the proclamation of prior plans in the media.

The aim of public talk about toppling the regime could be to provoke Saddam Husayn, to trap him into some reckless move justifying foreign intervention to topple him; or it could be merely for public consumption, while the real decision is to perpetuate the regime...and Saddam.

If the aim really is to provoke the leadership in Baghdad, it could be that the various parties and countries involved in this strategy found, within Iraq, the necessary element needed to implement this plan,

and attained unanimity with the countries of the region, at least on not complicating the process with the right to pretend non-entry as a party to it. Anything else would lead not only to the failure of the strategy, but also to retaliatory measures, punishing the Iraqis and making their suffering worse.

If the truth is, as some believe, that the decision is to coexist with the regime — hence the public talk of a plan to topple it — then that means there is an ongoing agreement on the usefulness of Saddam Husayn, in his capacity as "buffer zone" to protect the oil market from Iraq's natural return to it; to continue to tame Iraq; and as a legitimate pretext for the neighboring countries to pay for "dual containment." Highlighting the fear of Saddam Husayn and his regime could be part of the strategy to maintain the status quo in Iraq, the region, and the oil market. Perpetuating the status quo means perpetuating the regime. It might also mean the worst case scenario: perpetuating the regime and, with it, the sanctions.

Iraq's record of compliance with the terms of lifting the oil embargo on Iraq, as stipulated in Resolution 687, almost suggests that the political leadership itself does not want Iraq to emerge from the cycle of the sanctions. Its record makes it appear to be an accomplice of the international parties which want to continue to blockade Iraq with sanctions. However fantastic this idea may be, it does seem that the regime perceives its survival to be assured only if the sanctions continue — while the international parties involved see, in the continuance of the regime, the surest method of continuing the sanctions.

Lifting the oil embargo through Resolution 687 is not the only source of these interpretations; there is also Resolution 986, which gave Iraq the power to sell \$1 billion worth of oil every 90 days for a period of six months, renewable. Ostensibly, the aim of the resolution was to allow Baghdad to sell a limited quantity of oil to cover the costs of food, medicine, and medical equipment to ease the humanitarian suffering, but a careful study of the resolution shows that the text was written in light of what is known of the character and mentality of the Iraqi president — with the aim of assuring his rejection of it. The resolution contains conditions that hit the most sensitive nerves of Saddam's thinking and behavior. That is why Baghdad's consent to study ways of implementing it with the Secretariat-General, under the headline "Oil for Food," came as a surprise to Western capitals, especially Washington. These countries still expect the talks to founder on the same details adopted by those who fashioned Resolution 986 with Saddam Husayn in mind.

So far, the leadership in Baghdad has not disappointed those who want the talks to fail. The mentality of filtering the political decision from above still is in effect political action in Iraq, and still dominates the fear of most of those who take their orders without any discussion from above. Thus decisions are made in isolation from their consequences, and the participation of professionals in polishing them, and become prone to provocation and "errors." It is proved that those who make the decisions suffer from symptoms of a "siege mentality."

This is accompanied by a sort of "artificial victory" whose sufferers display the most extreme defeat; they do not accept reality, but convince themselves of the illusion of victory and behave on that basis. It appears this type does not persist only in the upper echelon of the leadership, but also among the technocrats and even career politicians in Baghdad.

The best instance of this is the fact that the Iraqi officials in politics and the media either do not understand the meaning of the Chapter VII of the UN Charter, by virtue of which most of the resolutions against Iraq were adopted, or they refuse to acknowledge this reality. It is in the interest of Iraq as a whole to understand that any country which falls under the Chapter VII of the Charter means practically that it has no right to absolute sovereignty. This is international law, not the law of the jungle. There is no need to pretend that it is within the power of the Iraqi Government to act with the total sovereignty it enjoyed before Iraq was besieged by Chapter VII of the of the Charter. There is no use in the Iraqi Government's making decisions that harm Iraq on the pretext of sovereignty. It might be in Baghdad's interest to show a little humility as it looks for ways to implement the "oil for food" formula and save its honor, instead of forgetting its need for this formula and getting out of implementing Resolution 986.

With the passage of time, after the talks that began three weeks ago with a technical round which ended last Monday, awaiting political decisions, the main idea has lost its basic momentum, and the degree of readiness to consider the Iraqi position.

The Iraqi Government has insisted on appearing not to be negotiating over the implementation of Resolution 986, instead of taking advantage of momentum to agree to it; then followed up with other obstacles which made even the acceptance in its appearance troubling and unacceptable.

In its study of the details of implementing the conditions of selling \$1 billion worth of oil, and the details of distributing the revenues, it forgot that these western countries are not compensating or helping the Iraqi

Government in implementing and supervising the resolution, but rather acting to humiliate the regime as it implements it.

It is true that the western countries, in their insistence on keeping the sum of \$130-150 million allocated for the Kurds in the north separate from the plan accepted for the rest of Iraq, reflected the saying of those who want to "get a golden egg" but not "kill the goose." It is true that they wanted to complicate or even sink the talks by insisting on the separation in cash and not accepting the central government's allocation of the fixed amount in kind turned over to the UN. But these countries' aim is not to consolidate the separation of the north from the rest of Iraq and threaten its territorial unity, as that is rejected both regionally and internationally. Their goal is a political tactic to get on the nerves of the Iraqi leadership and provoke it into rejecting the formula as a whole and then blaming that leadership for repeatedly starving the Iraqi people.

If Baghdad goes most of the distance, by accepting the Kurdish allocation of about 12 percent of revenues, as stipulated in Resolution 986, there is no sense in its taking the greater and more significant steps, only to stumble in the final steps of completion. So let the percentage be deducted in cash, and let the secretary general, rather than Kurdish leaders, take over the responsibility for monitoring the supplies sent to the Kurds. As the treatment of the humanitarian needs in the north relieves the Kurdish leaders of a burden, the treatment of humanitarian needs in the rest of Iraq will relieve the Baghdad leadership of a burden.

The real reason behind Baghdad's rejection, at first, of allocating the Kurdish sum was the hope that the aggravation of the humanitarian situation in the north would lead the Kurdish leaders to resort to improving their political dialogue with Baghdad, but while the leadership in Baghdad agreed to refrain from using starvation as a weapon in the north, there is no need for it now to destroy the agreement on the "oil for food" formula in marginal details, compared to the decisions it has taken.

The failure to reach an agreement will represent Iraq's greatest setback because it will make Baghdad appear to epitomize someone who "cuts off his nose to spite his face," or "shoots himself in the foot." Baghdad's choice is not between what is hard and what is easy, but between hard and harder. The Iraqi leader is being put to a critical test. The Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini drank "poison" in the interests of his country, putting them above his own selfish considerations. Will Saddam Husayn do for Iraq what Khomeini did for Iran?

Hence the failure of the talks would represent a setback for Iraq, and perhaps for the regime, too, but it would not represent a victory over Saddam Husayn as some westerners and Arabs think. If these want to target the Iraqi regime, they must be careful not to target the Iraqi people instead. Resolution 986 offers an opportunity to ease the suffering of the people with international supervision. Those who fear the easing of suffering will free the Iraqi regime in Baghdad of responsibility must look beyond their theories and wishes.

If there is a strategy to tighten the noose and the embargo, and to close in on the Baghdad regime, let it take into consideration the significance of haste and going easy. It is not easy for the people of Iraq to play their role in this dramatic global play along with the roles imposed upon them in the local play.

Iraq: Editorial Says Regime Should 'Swallow the Poison' on Resolution 986

96LH0149A London AL-HAYAH 16 Feb 96 p 17

[Article by Raghidah Dargham in New York: "Let the Baghdad Leadership Swallow the Poison for the Good of the Iraqis"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was the summer of 1988 when Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeyni realized his military position in the Iran-Iraq conflict was no longer favorable to his country's interests; he withdrew his rejection of Resolution 597 and announced his acceptance of it, saying, "I am swallowing poison." We are now going into the spring of 1996. Five years have passed since the Gulf war, and the Iraqi leadership has not yet conclusively made the decision to put the country's interests above any other consideration. If the talks on the "oil for food" formula succeed, this might be seen as the beginning of such a decision. If Iraqi President Saddam Husayn does not emulate the wisdom of putting his country's interests above every consideration, history will record that his vanity and power triumphed over the good of the people and the country, whereas Khomeyni put the country's interests above every consideration and personal objective.

The first suggestion of the success of the talks between Iraq and the United Nations Secretariat General for implementing the "oil for food" formula lies in the Iraqi leadership's issuing clear instructions to the negotiating team, based on a determination to reach a positive result and to overcome every obstacle.

If the leadership actually issued these instructions, this would enable the negotiating team, headed by the very capable diplomat Ambassador 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, to reach an understanding and terms favorable to Iraqi

reservations about Resolution 986, which launched "oil for food."

But If the instructions are merely to block the talks, to scout out the UN's case, and bargain with it, and then to drag their feet in making a decision, then the Iraqi leadership will have damaged both Iraq and the Secretariat General. It would also hurt those in need of the talks. There is nothing wrong with working diligently for the best means of implementing Resolution 986 in such a way as to strengthen Iraq's sovereignty and territorial unity; but it would be wrong to view the talks with the Secretariat General as if they were negotiations between two equal sides.

UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali invited the Iraqi Government into a dialogue on the "oil for food" formula, based on the authority vested in him by the Security Council in Resolution 986 with the aim of helping Iraq arrive at implementation mechanisms for supervising Baghdad's stipulations. Thus these talks ought to be between two cooperating sides intent on achieving a positive result, leaving no room for the Security Council to accuse the secretary general of departing from Resolution 986.

Thus it is in the interest of the Iraqi side to see these talks in the context of partnership with the Secretariat General, without obstructionism or trickery. Trickery might be just the pretext some people want in order to thwart the purpose of Iraq's selling the quantity of oil set out in Resolution 986, about \$1 billion worth every 90 days: to ease human suffering and to satisfy the Iraqis' pressing needs.

Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Barak has made no secret of his opposition to allowing Iraq to sell a limited quantity of oil in conformity with Resolution 986. Indeed, he took action in the United Nations, announcing, "any easing of the sanctions on Iraq will provide them (the Iraqis) with the means to permit them to engage in unconventional military activities." These are U.S. fears, too — that easing the suffering of the Iraqi people will free the Iraqi leadership from its crisis, so it will put its efforts into strengthening the military establishment on one hand, while the easing of human suffering will ease public pressure on the Iraqi leadership, which will then resume old ways, locally and regionally.

Hence we see the need for the Iraqi leadership to take the country's interests and position into consideration. These interests require implementing Resolution 986 without excess cunning and haggling, followed by some form of compliance with all the Security Council resolutions; taking constitutional and practical steps domestically to put Iraq on the road to democracy;

abandoning trickery and procrastination in issues of cooperation with the special committee charged with eliminating banned weapons; and the satisfactory and realistic conclusion that Iraq will not go back to being a significant military power in the region: its sole power would be in building up civilian power. While this might be a "dose of poison" to the Iraqi leadership, it should swallow it if it has truly decided to put the good of Iraq above any other consideration, as Khomeyni put the good of Iran above his personal motives.

The starting point is Resolution 986 for the simple reason that there is no other option, if Baghdad wants to ease the human suffering and start a new chapter in the record of its dealings with the United Nations. There is no reason for Baghdad to imagine the talks, especially if they yield positive results, to be a victory over the United States. Thus, this is not the time to show off — such behavior would definitely lead to the opposite result, which could wreck the positive results of the talks.

So, issue instructions to the negotiating team to make the talks succeed and give it the power and freedom to debate or else these talks will degenerate into a mere maneuver, making Iraq's true intentions even more suspect. The choice is up to the Baghdad leadership.

Butrus-Ghali will not emerge from these talks a failure. He is the party that can say: "I tried and failed," without that failure reflecting negatively on him. The failure of the talks would detract from the credibility and seriousness of the Iraqi leadership, as well as letting down the Iraqis' hopes of getting a break from the burden of their misery. The letdown of their expectations might not lead to a revolution or an uprising against the regime, but it will give the impression that the priority of the Iraqi leadership is, unfortunately, itself; and that it does not care if this costs the lives of half the country's population. There is a big difference between he who puts the country's good above his own and swallows poison, and he who is prepared to sacrifice the country for his own sake and considers that a "historic achievement."

If they decide to make the talks succeed and Iraq begins to pump \$1 billion worth of oil every 90 days for six months, it can decide later on whether it is in its interests to stop pumping oil after six months, during which it will have complied with all the special committee's demands, and obey the other relevant resolutions, preparatory to foiling any excuse for not implementing Article 22 of Resolution 687, by virtue of which the oil embargo on Iraq would be lifted. It could also seek the consent of the Security Council to renew the 90 day period if it finds the practical climate

and political climate require the extension until such time as the necessary conditions exist for implementing Article 22 of Resolution 687.

There are many opinions on this. There are those who think it would be better to work on further developing Resolution 986 later on by increasing the quantity of oil, for example, because it would be difficult to halt the oil pumping, and there would be no need to stop exporting, if the precise date for lifting the total oil embargo on Iraq is not met. There are also those who think it is in Iraq's interest to request a halt after the six months and to refuse to extend it so that Resolution 986 will not become an alternative to the status quo, to Article 22, especially as the implementation of Resolution 986 makes it easy for Washington to use its veto against the implementation of Article 22 on the pretext that Iraq is selling its oil to cover its humanitarian needs. According to this view, Washington prefers the sales to be under international monitoring, and in a limited quantity, with revenues channeled to specific goals, to ease the human suffering and with it, ease the criticisms of U.S. responsibility for that suffering.

Apart from the option Baghdad might subsequently find in Iraq's best interests, the logic of events today requires the implementation of Resolution 986, whether you call it the "oil for food" formula or the "jump through this hoop" formula. For the New York talks to succeed, a clear political decision is needed.

If logic rules, the talks will yield positive results and that will prescribe a dose of poison for the Iraqi leadership, but logic is in short supply in Baghdad. Some bet that logic will stumble, while others are betting on a logical surprise from Baghdad.

Iraq: Further on Saddam's Address to al-Dur Citizens

*JN2003150696 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0830 GMT 20 Mar 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 19 Mar (INA)—President Saddam Husayn said: Patriotism can be expressed in all fields. For every Iraqi, patriotism means a close affiliation with the homeland and the people. This is because a homeland without a people cannot be called a homeland, but merely a piece of land.

During an inspection visit to the sons of his people in the al-Dur District in the Salah al-Din Governorate, 150 kilometers north of Baghdad, his excellency added: This is patriotism. When the time of construction comes, we call the person who works more a person who is outstanding in his patriotism, when the time of donations comes we call those who make donations outstanding

in their patriotism, and when the time of fighting comes we call those who defend the homeland and the people outstanding in their patriotism.

President Saddam Husayn said: One of the most important issues in which one's patriotism can be distinguished under the circumstances of blockade is to work to produce grain for himself and for his people. When he works in a good manner, even though he sells grain, we say that he is outstanding in his patriotism. This is if he basically has this intention to support his people.

He added: The most important yardstick of patriotism is that the loaf of bread must not be hoarded. Anyone who hoards bread cannot be called a patriotic person. This is because his patriotism will be undermined inasmuch as he hurt the people by hoarding. Any positive action in such a case will be highly evaluated because it is related to the people's bread. This also applies to any negative action whose effects will be harmful because it is related to the people's bread. When you, in al-Dur District produce surplus quantities of grain, then this means that your patriotism is distinguished. This is because you provide sustenance for the al-Dur people and other Iraqis. This also applies to the governorate, the subdistrict, and the village.

His excellency pointed out: When we were young men, we used to cross the Tigris by swimming. We used to begin with a tributary then to cross the Tigris. Pride was not confined to those who used to cross the river, although he who used to cross the river by himself was called an outstanding person, but also to those who used to try to cross the river. And in order to be an outstanding person, he had to help a weak person or a child to cross the river. In this case, he would be the best swimmer.

President Saddam Husayn said: In light of this, I want to say that the districts, subdistricts, and governorates whose agricultural land is rich will do an excellent job when they provide sustenance to other Iraqis from agricultural produce in general, and grain in particular. We have another yardstick to work with; namely, to measure the cultivated area economically. In other words, one of the characteristics of al-Dur land is that if a donum of land thriving on rain water was cultivated and served in a good and sound way, including good health care, fertilization, good plowing, and good seeds, then its produce would be abundant.

His excellency added: I am saying that if all these things went on properly we can see its results. If the donum, which produces a number of kilograms of any product, produces less than that, this means there is a shortcoming in plowing or seeding; the seeds are too many or too little; fertilizer is not given at all, or is

given at the wrong time or in insufficient quantities; and rain might not be sufficient if this land depends on rain water.

We will see if you, in the al-Dur District, covered your needs when you were the first among the distinguished districts. We will ask the trade minister about that.

Commenting on what the al-Dura District officer mentioned regarding the quantities of wheat produced in his district, the president asked: Does your assistant help you in making the calculations because as far as I know he can tell how much wheat one donum can produce by looking at it?

Commenting on what the district officer said regarding his failure to appoint garbage collectors because of the instructions to reduce expenditure, his excellency asked him: Are the rich people in the district not concerned about the cleanness of their city? Have you gathered the city's wealthy people and told them that your city needed special care in terms of cleanliness, that this year's allocations were decreasing, and that we needed your cooperation? Have you made such an attempt?

When the district officer said that discussion is underway on the possibility of benefiting from the Alms Fund in this work, his excellency said: No. The Alms Fund should remain for the people who need it, because alms are for citizens, not the state. Resort to dialogue. When a wealthy man lives in a village he becomes part of it and when he lives in a city he becomes part of its. He should remember that he would not gain a fils of what he gained had it not been for his city and village.

I believe that citizens are ready to help you in municipal services in general whether in cleaning and beautifying their city, or in any other services. However, you should gather them and enter into dialogue with them to discuss any issue with them so that they will help you.

The president said: There is nothing wrong in government officials anywhere in Iraq, and not just in al-Dur District, doing that. Wherever he is, a government official needs to pool the resources of those who have potential, including the average people, in order to contribute to the services rendered by their municipalities. A government official can take the initiative, provided he controls the situation through a committee. This can be done once the idea crystallizes and is approved by those concerned. The aim is not to obtain the prior approval of the higher authorities. For example, the district officer does not need to obtain the approval of the governor, and the governor does not need to await the approval of the Interior Ministry. No. The governor can take the initiative to raise funds for municipality services. However, in organizing such a campaign he should first con-

trol the collected funds according to official procedures by forming committees to supervise the fund raising campaign, include the funds in the temporary revenues, which are to be spent on certain known projects, and then inform the Interior Ministry of the matter.

His Excellency added: After he collects the money, the governor should inform the ministry of the total amount collected and the project on which it will be spent. In other words, he should inform the ministry of the details. Similarly, the district officer should inform the governor, and the subdistrict officer should inform the district officer. However, they all have the right to take the initiative and carry out projects that improve municipality services through extra efforts by the citizens, whether in the form of direct action or donation.

For instance, if the district officer sees that one or more of the schools in his area have broken windows, thus exposing our children to cold weather, he should not stand idly by not doing anything about it and wait for next year's allocations simply because he does not have a budget for broken glass this year. This will cause harm. He should speak to the school principal and ask him to call a meeting of the children's parents in order to discuss the situation and make donations. They should donate money to fix the windows. The fund-raising process should be done according to an organized accounting system.

His excellency the president said: The government official is a senior administrator and he should not stand idly by. He should have a great deal of patience in working, directing, and taking initiatives.

How much did you produce last year? Last year, you produced 12,533 tonnes, while your annual consumption is 2,856 tonnes. This means that your production exceeded your consumption by over four times. In other words, al-Dur District satisfied its needs and produced three times as much for Iraqis. Therefore, you have to set a goal for yourselves and say: We in al-Dur District have to meet the grain needs of more Iraqis. Is it not so?

We can find out how much al-Dur District produced and calculate the per donum productivity. Productivity means that in an ideal agricultural performance, a donum produces an average of 800 kgs. You calculate the cultivated area in al-Dur and multiply that by the 800 kgs. Then we say that al-Dur should produce such a quantity. If the production is less, this means that there is a shortcoming somewhere and we have to find out where it is. Is it not so?

Iraq: Saddam Tours Tuz District, Meets Citizens, Officials

JN2003195596 Baghdad Iraq Television Network
in Arabic 1845 GMT 20 Mar 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] On this bright and beautiful day, the Tuz district in the Salah al-Din Governorate was honored by a blessed and generous visit from the leader of the people, President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him.

His excellency began his visit by inspecting the Yafa Elementary School. He was received by the school's boys and girls and the members of the school's administration and teaching staff and was greeted with happy cheers. His excellency spoke to his children and the school's headmaster and asked them to convey greetings to their families. The president then walked about in the district's streets amid citizens who cheered him and Iraq.

His excellency then left for the Tuz Ba'th Party branch headquarters and he asked the district officer and the Ba'th Party branch secretary about the conditions in the district and the municipal services. He was also briefed by the Salah al-Din governor on the level of services in the district and he ordered that the needs of the city pertaining to people's livelihood be provided.

Meanwhile, the Tuz district masses gathered and surrounded the Ba'th Party branch, cheering the leader president, the pride of Iraq and the Iraqis. His excellency emerged from the building to greet them, raising his generous hand amid emotions of happiness and pride. His excellency met with a number of the Tuz citizens and he ordered that their problems be solved.

After talking with the comrades secretary and members of the Tuz Ba'th Party branch, his excellency left the city and was seen off by the masses and officials of the district amid manifestations of love. His excellency was accompanied by Salah al-Din Governor Ghazi Ahmad al-Khattab.

Iraq: Unloading of Australian Wheat Ship Begins at Umm Qasr Port

JN2003193296 Baghdad Iraq Television Network
in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Mar 96

[Announcer-read report; from the "Evening Newspaper" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] The unloading of the ship (Kaiker Island), which is laden with 29,470 tonnes of Australian wheat imported for the Ministry of Trade, has begun at the Port of Umm Qasr in the al-Basrah Governorate.

**Iraq: Trade Ministry To Expand Foodstuffs
'Marketing Outlets'**

JN1903204696 Baghdad Iraq Television Network
in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Mar 96

[Interview with Yusuf Muhsin 'Abd-al-Rahman, director of the State Enterprise for Trade in Foodstuffs, by 'Amir Rashid; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Rashid] Does the Trade Ministry intend to expand marketing outlets to provide citizens with foodstuffs and commodities?

['Abd-al-Rahman] Thank you. In implementation of the contents of the letter Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, addressed to the Council of Ministers on 2 December 1996, the Trade Ministry adopted measures to maintain balanced prices and provide commodities by opening marketing outlets to sell foodstuffs, consumers goods, construction materials, and spare parts through the Baghdad International Fair and the central markets in Baghdad and the governorates. The prices will be lower than the local market prices. The Trade Ministry will also help in withdrawing the cash surplus to reduce the inflation rates.

The Ministry's measure to distribute foodstuffs does not mean that a fixed quota will be distributed to citizens on a monthly basis. The aim is to involve the Ministry in sales whenever there is any need to balance the prices and prevent inflation. This measure has also been taken in the past. Two years ago, the Ministry intervened to distribute foodstuffs when the prices rose sharply in local markets. The Ministry entered the market and distributed great amounts of food stuffs in Baghdad and the governorates and greatly helped maintain balanced prices in local markets.

[Rashid] Will the Ministry pump foodstuffs into the markets today?

['Abd-al-Rahman] The Ministry continues to pump great amounts. It is also prepared to increase these amounts at any time and when necessary. Moreover, the Ministry is prepared to open great marketing outlets whenever there is congestion in current outlets.

Iraq: Fish Prices Reported Rising

96LH0090A Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic 27 Dec 95
pp 20-21

[Article by Mahir Faysal: "Why Have Fish Prices Risen for the Poor?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] One of God's great gifts is the great sea, which He made to cover three-fourths of the earth. One of his gifts to us is fish, that small nutrient

and inexhaustible livelihood: it is the eternal swimmer in the endless sea, so that it can be caught in fishermen's nets and feed hungry mouths.

Since the beginning of Creation, God has wanted mankind to live in peace. He made a quarter of the world dry land and submerged the rest under water so that man would be able to have all sorts of livelihoods because man is greedy by his nature, and when he knows a source of livelihood is limited, he fights for control over it. Here, the fish are teaching us a lesson.

Reverse Proportion

Traditional legends, our grandmothers' storytelling, the science of economics, and the experiences of peoples, all show that fish is abundant. In al-Basrah, it was said in olden times that "the poor man walks and takes his fish with him." In other words, those who had no food that day were saved by fish: they ate it and fed it to their children because of the way that governorate Al-Basrah is surrounded by water.

Despite the fact that the riches of the sea are much more numerous than fish, none is more popular than this food, which no longer goes with the poor—who now use it as fertilizer because it is so plentiful!

This is not strange. Yesterday's poor are so rich that no one is poor now because the latter can find practically no one to stand up for them. Today the rich understand changes and tricks and seek their wealth at any price. Even if they gain, fish is no longer the poor man's advantage, now that it has been snatched from him by the hand of the ogre of obscene price increases and been hidden in the ogre's thick fingers before being thrown into the snares of the merchants and price speculators who have the money and the means that others lack — the others being us: me and you.

Before going into the causes and the methods for the high fish prices in the land of fish, there is something we must understand: the fishing boats that used to be launched into local waters and outside them used to bring in all types of fish, especially river shad. At the time there were no freezers or refrigerators, and it was sold so cheaply that it was used as fertilizer in gardens; and people ate all types of fish, when there was no fish for the rich, with some other fish for the poor. Gradually, after the two aggressive wars al-Basrah endured, there began to be fish for the rich and there were still types of fish for the poor. Among these were the river shad and the sole. The mullet and the barbel, the jafut [as published] and the mackerel which are relatively plentiful, but now their numbers are diminishing and disappearing from the tables of the poor, leaving only mullet and jafut. These in turn have

seen their prices rise, despite the fact that there are more boats and fishermen than in the past. We must search for the answer.

Terrifying Prices!

In al-Basrah, no great effort is needed to uncover the facts because they are public. One thing that is publicly known is that people are moving into fishing, with many of the rich getting involved in building fishing boats. This has meant an increased supply of fish, which should have meant a drop in prices. Because the opposite has happened, people are speculating. Some of them blame the fishermen, some blame exporters, while others blame the owners of the farmers' markets and shops for causing the constant increases in fish prices. Now, four kilograms of silver pomfret cost 40,000 dinars (D). The goat fish sells for 30,000 dinars, the barbel for D18,000, and the carp for D10,000. There are other such examples that have heated up the fish market. Accusations are spread among many different parties, none of whom have anything to do with the price rises! So who is to blame? Could it be the commission claimed by the contractor?

As'ad Husayn Jawdah replied, citing the high fish prices in al-Basrah:

"No. And that is the truth because those responsible for the farmers' markets take only the percentage stipulated in the contract, which is five percent of the sale. Because I work in this farmers' market and supervise it, I know that what is claimed (1-2 percent), is less than the stipulated percentage."

Mahir Faysal asked: How do the people miss out on their rights, if the supervisors are on their side?

As'ad Husayn Jawdah replied: For a simple reason. The owners of the farmers' markets want them to work, and if they ignore the agreed percentage, then fish importers won't bring the fish there; they'll send it out to their friends in other markets.

This is confirmed by Mr. Hamid Sa'dun Lafi, who runs a farmers' market:

"Yes, it's true. Furthermore, it would not bother us if any official came to monitor the selling process. He would find that the commission does not exceed 2 percent — not 5 percent as it says in the contract because people dealing in fish today have their connections, and they have their ways of disposing of their fish. Had it not been for the cooperation with them and dealing off-contract, we would not have worked...even though sales must take place in the farmers' market."

This has invalidated one of the reasons we had imagined, to be replaced by suspicion of the shop owners,

who in turn are acquitted by those who work in the farmers' markets, because they sell as they buy: if they pay a high price, they sell at a high price. We continued our search in the al-Khadarah farmers' market. In that market we asked Mr. Ghazi Jasib al-Bahadli about the high prices of fish and the absence of most types of fish.

Because this man worked in the Cooperative Committees and the Fish Commerce Issues before retiring and knew those who worked with them, he spoke up in defense of the accused parties, accusing yet others.

"In the past," he said, "there was a resolution stipulating that fish be marketed through the farmers' markets of al-'Ashshar and al-Basrah, after the auction process in the Nasr Cooperative in al-Faw. If a governorate's supply exceeded demand, the surplus was sent out to other governorates."

The question is: This means the decision stipulated the governorate's self-sufficiency and then permitted the other governorates' importers to make purchases through the farmers' markets.

Yes. Furthermore, he wrote on a permission slip for transport, "in excess of governorate's requirements" so it could pass through all controls.

But this means that fish was monopolized in al-Basrah, leaving the other cities without fish?

Mr. Hamid Sa'dun replied:

No. In the past, the fish from al-Faw was divided up by license, and no one but a license holder could buy from or take from the Nasr Cooperative. Now that boats and launches have been moved from Ras al-Bishah to al-Faw, however, it is now possible for anyone with financial means to bid for fish and buy them, which allows speculators from Baghdad and the governorates to bid, and at high prices, too high for others, thus securing large quantities of fish to sell to whomever wished to buy them.

This means that the traffickers in fish in al-Basrah were subject to the increase imposed from outside, that is, by fish merchants in the other governorates. However, this magazine, searching for the circuit from the shops to the itinerant peddlers, discovered something new, a cause, which was that a number of small and medium-scale capitalists are bidding for fish and speculating on them in other ways. This is also being done by big capitalists but clandestinely. The small and medium-scale capitalists buy fish and hide it in their houses in freezers, and big capitalists buy it under legitimate cover: companies which warehouse fish in large refrigerators. Why it is hidden and kept out of the market? To put it back on the market when fish is

scarce, in late October and late February. This means selling it at higher prices, which means buying low and selling high, which secures them an obscene profit.

According to the information the magazine provides, there are more than 28 freezers in al-Basrah belonging to companies, some of which engage in this practice and whose names are known to this magazine.

This means the process of selling fish is conducted without supervision and that the companies are granted licenses without objective conditions to regulate the streamlining of the fish business. How?

Irkome Causes

What do citizens know when they see a television advertisement for a fish production or marketing company? Indeed, what do they know about the whole marketing operation?

Certainly nothing except that that company means to sell fish to citizens. Applying the word "company" to this process means this company acquires all the sides of the process, beginning with supplying fishing tools — nets, sinkers, and other requirements, from fishing boats to fishermen themselves — to securing the voyage to the sea for fishing, to supplying fish to citizens. If a company is founded, with a certain capital or a large capital to sell stock yet owning no fishing boats or launches and not having the necessary requirements, then that is an illegitimate company, even if it is legitimate in terms of its founding license, because it is toying with the citizens' food supply and helping to oppress them, especially as among the rich these days, it is considered wrong to hold on to money and right to invest it in commodities or goods that can later be sold at high prices.

Hence we find companies who have acquired legitimacy; others, which are imaginary, toying with the food supply of the poor, with the claim that the fish of al-Faw are for all Iraqis! That is something that surely no one would deny, but it is possible to reject the means they use for exploiting it.

Because the matter does not end there, as Mr. Ghazi Jasib says, some of those who have sick minds sell some of the fish they bought from al-Faw at low prices on the Baghdad-al-Basrah road so that their supplies will attain high prices when they are scarce. If they do not find buyers, they just throw them on the road. Hamid Sa'dun Lafi adds that some others speculate in fish prices and buy fish to convert it into protein or poultry feed!

Why did all this happen? What brought it on?

The answer is simple. The reason is greed, and the method is lack of supervision, allowing selling to take

place outside the farmers' market and direct transport from al-Faw and the governorates. If there were few bidders in the Nasr Cooperative as in the past, they would take the fish to the farmers' markets; actually they would do this even if there were not a scarcity of bidders. But they must do their marketing through the marketing outlet—the farmers' markets—to bring in this commodity and sell it at competitive prices because there is so much, allowing citizens to buy at competitive prices: less than or similar to the prices at which they are purchased by company owners. This achieves some balance, especially as fish is sold in bulk at the farmers' markets.

Furthermore, those in charge of the farmers' markets—workers, buyers, and sellers—explained other things to us, including what caused hoarding fish in houses and freezers, and the non-use of farmers' markets in Khamsah Mil, al-Jumhuriyah, and the al-Husayn districts, despite the fact that this is part of the contract and they are supposed to serve the people of al-Basrah. What prevented this was the failure to allocate land for farmers' markets in al-Jumhuriyah and al-Husayn and the failure to monitor fish exports in Khamsah Mil, where a farmers' market was built, which has not done anyone any good. This has left fish in storage in the houses of that district.

In al-Khadarah, however, the transformation of the shops originally established to sell fish to other specialties encouraged the disappearance of fish because some of them were brought in secretly and some of them sold in secrecy. The wonder is that these shops are auctioned annually and the municipality disregards uses for which these shops were not originally founded. Some of the shops have changed and sell poultry, cheese, and other things, while other shops have been turned into always-closed warehouses, containing iron, crates, and empty bottles. All these are infractions. Those responsible for the farmers' markets did not sacrifice the security of the al-Basrah farmers' market, which was an open space that was fenced in!

One of the workers in the farmers' market asked us a significant question, saying:

"If we were the ones being negligent, would you let us escape the consequences?"

Once again we find ourselves facing wickedness. The matter was in our hands, but the truth imposes this question and the magazine, in turn, asks, Who is ruling whom? Because we do not have the answer nor the right to stand anywhere but with the citizens, we ask you to turn this report upside down to find the solutions to the problem of high fish prices: simply marketing inside the farmers' markets; granting traffickers licenses,

and not granting them to others; adopting the rules and controls making them supply boats, motors, fishing nets, and crews, and everything having to do with the fishing process before allowing them to engage in work; not allowing hoarding in houses; and paying each person what is due him. May we not say that fish have taught us wisdom?

Now imagine that three quarters of the earth were land and the rest water. What would greedy people do then?

Iraq: Technical Teams Repair, Drill 29 Oil Wells
JN2103135196 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH
in Arabic 10 Mar 96 p 1

[Report by Hiyam Ahmad]

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad — The Northern Oil Company has readied 25 oil wells for production after repairing them with the help of Iraqi technical experts. General Manager Dr. Talal 'Ashur Kan'an has said: The company's technicians have also successfully drilled four productive oil wells, despite the shortage of equipment due to the continuation of the unjust embargo. The technicians have also completed the fourth stage of the project to develop Saddam Oil Field, which is now ready to produce crude oil and gas.

The general manager added: The company has completed a major campaign to improve and enhance the efficiency of its production installations. It has expanded K3 (Hadithah) installations and rehabilitated K2 (Bayji) installations to update the system and link it to the strategic pipeline, which pumps crude oil to the north and south at a higher rate.

Iraq: Article Details 'Adventure' Touring Baghdad's al-Fadiliyah Suburb

96LH0087A Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic 10 Jan 96 pp 16-19

[Report by 'Abd-al-Sattar al-Baydani]

[FBIS Translated Text] For many reasons, which I will mention later, I went against the advice of a famous proverb that says "don't show the beggar the door of your house." In fact, I went further and started looking for the door of the beggar's house in al-Fadiliyah. Because I did not know anyone there, I asked many people about a well-known door to knock on, but everyone advised me not to go to al-Fadiliyah. They told me that dealing with its cattle and buffalo breeders is an adventure that could cost me my life.

This was another reason that prompted me to ignore the advice, which depicted the people there as inhuman. My photographer colleague also received the same advice, but he came along with me for this adventure. I

decided to disregard the strange stories I heard about the al-Fadiliyah people and to go there and see for myself. I wanted to inspect the Baghdad milk and meat port, as they called it, because its supply of dairy products directly affects the food situation in Baghdad and other neighboring governorates, particularly the people's breakfast. Early every morning, thousands of kilograms of cream, milk, cheese, butter, and yogurt leave al-Fadiliyah. This meant that we can discover the secret for the steep rise in the prices of cream and milk and for the big shortage in these commodities. We will also try to find the secret for the drop in the General Dairy Plant's productivity. This plant distributes its products to employees through the cooperatives. Here we will also try to find the secret for the rise in meat prices. Many other secrets pertaining to the blockade also lie here, and we might or might not find them because the situation here involves many unpleasant surprises that could affect us after we publish this report.

The First Gate

Finding the entry gate here is difficult because al-Fadiliyah is a neighborhood of Baghdad. We could not find any official here to help us enter the world of al-Fadiliyah. We only found the party (the Ba'th Party) branch, but we could not find any official there except one comrade who may have been a guard. He told us that he was not from the area and could not contact the branch officials except in the evening. Still, following many questions, the man tried to help us and facilitate our task, but without success. The only service he performed was to put us in touch with a member of the People's Assembly from al-Fadiliyah, who promised to come and see us after we tried to convince him that we were not in the advertising business. The people dislike people in the advertising business because of their extortion methods. We waited for him, but he never showed up. We decided to use our journalistic experience to penetrate this world, whose gloom increased while we were in the party branch. They warned us not to go alone because we might be harmed. Although the person in the party branch explained to us the chaotic and bitter situation in the area and assured us that the party was in control of the situation, particularly the shooting incidents that take place on occasions or for no occasion. He told us that once, some residents exchanged fire for 90 minutes, but, he said, no one can open fire now. When he finished talking, we heard three shots behind the party branch building. He looked at me and said: You see! He added: We are continuing our work. "A few days ago, we captured a group of people trying to hide 36 barrels of grease. They are now in the party branch awaiting officials from the Trade Ministry to take them."

From the conversations we had, we discovered that finding explanations to many things is difficult. The area is not agricultural, but controls the supply of flour to Baghdad. The reason, as we found out later, was that ordinary flour is processed here. The people who are engaged in this business are called "sieve owners." They use simple machines, which allow ordinary flour to pass through different sieves to produce very fine and clean flour. They sell this flour for double its price. The bran is sold as animal fodder, and this produces more profit. For example, they buy the sack of ordinary flour for D16,000. After processing it, they sell the sack of bran to animal breeders for D19,000. I will leave it to the reader to calculate the price of the fine clean flour and add it to the difference between the price of a sack of flour and a sack of bran.

The Roots

To clarify the picture to the reader and help him form his opinion, we must shed light on the history of this area and its people. Al-Padiliyah lies southeast of Baghdad. It is bordered from the south by the Diyala River, from the east by the dirt barrier that separates it from al-Kamaliyah area, from the west by the al-Mashtal Street and the Command of the Border Forces, and from the north by the agricultural school, which faces the al-Baladiyyat area. Al-Padiliyah was established in 1962 when cattle and buffalo breeders moved there from the Istah and Sara'if areas, near Baghdad, and the al-Qahirah, al-Mabzarah, and al-'Asimah areas. They came to these areas as migrants from the southern and central governorates — from Dhi Qar, Wasit, Maysan, and Babil. Most of them migrated in 1954. The reason they chose these areas was the geographical situation of Baghdad at that time, and the famous floods. Al-Rasafah was located between the Tigris River and the dirt barrier that extended parallel to the Tigris River, from the al-Kuray'at area to al-Rustumiyah and the Diyala River. After the floods, swamps and farms formed behind the barrier. The buffalo breeders, who were suffering from feudalism, found an outlet to escape this oppression. They migrated to Baghdad with their buffaloes and cattle, and brought their traditions and customs with them as well. They were called al-Ma'dan, which is a name given to buffalo breeders and not to peasants and villagers, as some urban people think.

After the 14 July 1958 revolution, the authorities gave the al-Pudayliyah land to them to gather them in one place close to the dairy plant. They also gave them land in Abi Gharib, in the al-Dhahab al-Abyad Village. However, they have not received title deeds for the al-Pudayliyah land, despite many promises to this effect. This situation was causing concern to them, and it is

perhaps one reason for the miserable life in which they live. The area, in general, looks like a garbage dump. The house style is old and simple. It is similar to village houses. In fact, village houses are sometimes better in terms of cleanliness and style. We have learned that the reason is not because the people are poor, but because they feel that the houses in which they live do not belong to them and that they could be driven out anytime.

Streets for People and Streets for Animals

Since the area is residential and not agricultural, the reader might wonder where this large number of animals are raised. The answer is that every house is built on a 600-square meter plot. The houses are uniformly divided — 300 square meters in front for the house and 300 square meters in the back for the cattle. Because of this division, there are streets only for people and others for animals. The animal streets, or the dirt streets — as the people call them — are open from one end and closed from the other. This is done to control the entry and exit of the animals. I will leave it to the reader to imagine the filth on these streets. In fact, the people's streets are no different from the animal streets. They are full of garbage and sewage water, which rises above the street level. No streets are paved. The people we met expressed their readiness to contribute to the paving of the streets and the building of a sewage network. We had the chance to visit a house and meet with Muhsin Muhanna Kati', chief of a branch of al-Humaydat Tribe, and Community Chiefs [mukhtar] Karim 'Alwan and 'Alwan Muhsin. We learned from our conversations that there are many community chiefs here. While we were surprised that the two community chiefs were carrying pistols as they came in dressed in simple civilian clothes. Nevertheless, our surprise ended after we heard about the life and the relationships there. During this meeting, we learned a great deal about the people's concerns and the situation in the area, which is dominated by extreme contradictions.

Wonders and Contradictions

We did not exaggerate the miserable picture of the situation we painted. In fact, we tried to make it look better than it was so no one would misunderstand us. We do not want the reader to think that the reason for this situation is the people's poverty. The opposite is true. Here we heard strange stories about millionaires. Such stories are not common in Baghdad, except among families known for their economic position. Many of those we met did not deny these stories. They only said: "We are not all rich, but life goes on." What we noticed is that talking about millions is very normal here. The other thing we noticed was the talk about convertible cars. This is natural for the cattle breeders,

who found in the existing blockade conditions a natural opportunity for the growth and prosperity of their trade in dairy products, leather, and meat. However, the new thing is the extraordinary growth in the wealth and prosperity of the fodder merchants, as the cattle breeders told us. When we entered the party branch, the man we mentioned earlier gave us some names, which included a woman who was no different in appearance from the other al-Fadiliyah women except that she was rich and owned lots of property. He told us amazing stories about her wealth. Besides the houses she owned in Baghdad's high-class neighborhoods, he told us that she owned 12 six-wheel lorries. We do not know if these stories were rumors spread about the fodder merchants. So, to be fair, we went to see this woman and ask her about the rumors, but we did not find her. We only found one convertible car and three six-wheel lorries. Although we carried a recommendation from Community Leader 'Alwan to meet with her, we were told that she is not there. We went to see another fodder merchant to ask him about the charges of the cattle breeders. However, surprisingly, he denied the rumors and even denied that he is the person we wanted to see. He said: I am not he. I am a lorry driver from Kafri. Of course, I did not believe him, because a worker there pointed him out to me. Another person also pointed him out. This is the way things go.

Conversations in al-Jubah

Al-Jubah is an important center in al-Fadiliyah. It is a place where animals are sold. The next day we visited al-Jubah and met with many people, who spelled out many of their worries to us. Perhaps their biggest worry was not having the title deeds for their houses so they can settle down. Muhsin Muhanna Kati' told me on the first day of our visit that they contacted more than one official trying to find a solution to the title deed problem. The officials suggested moving them to the Hawr al-Juwayjah area, between al-Kut and al-'Amarah. However, they refused because they wanted to be treated like the cattle breeders in Abi Gharib, who were given title deeds to their land.

The second problem is the fodder, which has caused a drop in the number and productivity of the cattle. The reason is that the dairy plant has stopped distributing fodder to the cattle breeders. Fodder merchants have taken over the business. They started raising the prices and cheating in the quality of the fodder, as the cattle breeders claim. 'Id Sa'd 'Adwan says that fodder mixed with iron, sand, and salt has harmed his animals. Two buffaloes became sick because of the fodder. Iron was found in their stomachs, and they needed surgery.

The dairy plant does not provide fodder unless it receives milk. This was the situation before 1990. So, because the cattle breeders stopped sending their milk to the dairy plant, the plant stopped supplying them with fodder. The cattle breeders say that milk prices are not good and neither are the fodder quantities. Fodder also might not arrive because of bureaucratic complications and transportation problems. They think that priority must be given to solve this problem, because this is a national issue that affects the people's resources and food. In a quick survey of six cattle breeders, we found that they owned 245 cows and buffaloes before 1990. Now the number dropped to 86 heads. I leave it to the reader to figure out the percentage of the decrease in the animal wealth and the percentage it will reach next year. The animal wealth is decreasing constantly. Some families went bankrupt. Salman Jabr Husayn complained to us, saying: I have switched from cattle breeding. I now own a small shop, which can hardly provide for our needs. I used to own 500 buffaloes, and now nothing, because of the fodder and its problems.

We think that this problem can easily be solved. If the problem is between the people and the dairy officials — as they claim — it can be resolved by allocating a fodder quota to each breeder, after a survey is conducted. Delivery of the fodder will be according to the food ration system through an individual or an association of breeders only. In return, the breeders will undertake to deliver their milk to the pertinent quarters. This will close the door to fodder merchants, monopolists, and price manipulators and will protect the price of dairy products, which has been going up every morning. There are major cattle breeders who own 60-150 heads and others who own 10-15 heads. Thus, the reader can easily verify the rumors that al-Fadiliyah residents are big owners. We do not see anything wrong in this. This is the nature of life. This is the result of the oppressive blockade. By the way, the prices of animals and animal products here are different from their prices in the city where the merchant takes a percentage. We will provide some figures to help the reader see the picture:

The price of a thoroughbred pregnant buffalo is 1 million dinars. The price of an ordinary buffalo is 800,000 dinars (D). The price of the skin is D8,000. If the skin is sold with the stomach and the liver, the price is D18,000. The average milk production of a buffalo is 15 kg daily. The price of one ton of bran fodder is D150,000 dinars, cotton and sunflower seed fodder is D130,000, and rice-based fodder is D200,000. The average fodder consumption per head is 50 kg daily. The cattle breeders whom we met in al-Jubah gave these figures to us. Another problem raised by the people goes back to 1985 when a merchant imported buffaloes from

India. A few days later, they fell sick with the plague. The slaughterhouse directorate in Baghdad decided to take the animals away. Husayn 'Ali says that they slaughtered some of the buffaloes and cows and sold the meat. They also took some dead animals. Some people showed us letters and petitions sent to higher authorities. The last of them was a petition sent to the president leader — may God protect him — on 9 November 1993.

Conclusions and Suggestions

We can say that state institutions are not providing services to the people of al-Fadiliyah, who seem to live in isolation, although they are administratively part of Baghdad. The seriousness of the situation is not limited to the effects it has on the relations between people. It goes beyond that. It affects an important economic center. This is indeed the milk and meat port, as they call it. Ignoring or paying attention to this area will directly reflect on the people in Baghdad and the neighboring governorates. Whoever wants to learn the extent of this effect must go to al-Fadiliyah early in the morning (buying and selling in al-Fadiliyah begin at 0300 and end 0900). He will find crowds of people going after milk and cream. We do not exaggerate when we say that thousands of kilograms of dairy products destined for the breakfast tables of the Baghdad people leave al-Fadiliyah every morning.

Therefore, an area of this importance must not remain outside the state's jurisdiction. No administration, no health services, no municipality, and not even education exist in al-Fadiliyah. Education here is almost at a standstill. It is enough to say that until 30 October 1995, the day we visited al-Fadiliyah, studies had not started in the Pursan al-Qadisiyah school. No one attends the school except the principal and his assistant. A strange paradox is that the agriculture ministry does not provide services to al-Fadiliyah, despite its importance as a source of dairy products, because it is a residential and not an agricultural or a rural area. This problem should be resolved, because the situation reflects on the nature of human relations. Therefore, I was not surprised to hear a student explain to me that the teachers do not report to work because some students do not hesitate to pull out a gun against the teachers. Although such behavior is limited, it affects the other people of al-Fadiliyah. We think that a bold and decisive review of the situation of these people and their resources would save them and their animals from environmental, medical, and social diseases. We sensed that some of them are ready to cooperate with the responsible authorities to resolve the situation in the area. Otherwise, the developments could surprise us.

Israel: Beilin Tours Security Zone, Reaffirms Right to Military Option*TA2003165196 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1300 GMT 20 Mar 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister Yosi Beilin says Israel has not waived the right to resort to the military option in south Lebanon, and will use it if necessary.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Minister Beilin toured the security zone in south Lebanon this morning, along with Coordinator of Activities Uri Lubrani, Northern Command Chief 'Amiram Levin, and other senior officers.

Israel: IDF, Cabinet Said Prepared To Launch Operation in Lebanon*TA2003181296 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1
Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 20 Mar 96*

[Talk between anchor Hayim Yavin and political correspondent Nisim Mish'al in the Tel Aviv studio — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Yavin] Syria has promised the United States that it will curb Hizballah in south Lebanon and demanded that the United States curb Israel. Good evening, political correspondent Nisim Mish'al in our Tel Aviv studio.

[Mish'al] Good evening, Hayim.

[Yavin] Nisim, I understand that feverish consultations are under way in the Prime Minister's Office.

[Mish'al] The prime minister is in his Jerusalem office. U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk was briefed by a very senior military official an hour ago on the developments in south Lebanon, and on Israeli assessments of these developments. A consultation between the prime minister and defense elements is possible tonight. The security cabinet will not convene. Major General Dani Yatom is providing the prime minister with constant updates on the latest developments in south Lebanon.

[Yavin] Earlier today, however, the prime minister sounded optimistic and soothing when he spoke about the Syrian message which he received via the Americans. What happened in the meantime?

[Mish'al] Something very curious happened. The Americans exerted heavy pressure on the Syrians through their ambassador to Damascus, firmly demanding that Hizballah be curbed. Several hours later, they received a message from President al-Asad, which was subsequently communicated to the prime minister. Here is the very curious Syrian reaction as communicated to the Americans: We will use our good services to curb Hizballah in south Lebanon, and we hope you, the Americans, will use your good services to curb Israel.

When the prime minister received the message, he said: It is a cunning message; it has two sides: a promise to curb Hizballah, but also an attempt to shackle Israel through the Americans, to prevent Israel from operating in south Lebanon. The Americans asked — I have to stress: They asked — the prime minister to refrain from military action. He responded favorably, although he was inclined to launch some kind of an operation, the exact nature of which I cannot elaborate on. Finally, the prime minister made the very cautious statement we heard this morning to the effect that there are signs and indications that Hizballah is going to mitigate its activities. It held until midday.

[Yavin] Meanwhile the cards have been reshuffled, and the impression is that a conversation between three deaf parties is in progress. The ball is now in the Israeli court. The prime minister has to make some decisions.

[Mish'al] That is exactly the situation: The ball is definitely in the prime minister's court. The American request was firm until today's attacks, but now the prime minister is free of the promise he made to the Americans. He will have to decide on how he plans to operate in south Lebanon. I assume these decisions will be made in the next few hours. If I were to very cautiously guess what the cabinet or the inner cabinet could suggest under the circumstances, I would say that if a decision on military action is made — this is what the Americans were told tonight — the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will operate north of the security zone in a bid to force the Lebanese Government to take action against Hizballah. My opinion is being very cautiously phrased, because I cannot elaborate on it. The IDF and the government are prepared; they know precisely how to attack and what to do to force the Lebanese Government to take action against Hizballah in a way reminiscent of the previous wide-ranging action, Operation Accountability, but in a different way. Again, I cannot elaborate.

[Yavin] Thank you very much, political correspondent Nisim Mish'al.

Israel: Peres Sees 'No Choice' But To Give Hizballah 'a Beating'*TA2103053796 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0400 GMT 21 Mar 96*

[Report by political correspondent Udi Segal; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States understands that Israel's patience has its limits and that, at a certain stage, the muses may stop speaking. This was said last night by Israeli Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich in

Washington. And indeed, the guns have started speaking and the tension is mounting in south Lebanon. Prime Minister Peres must decide how, when, and where to react. Meanwhile, Peres has settled for giving a declaration of intent, and this is what he said during a visit to wounded IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers at Haifa's Rambam Hospital yesterday:

[Peres] "The Hizballah terrorists have become very sophisticated and must be taken seriously. At the same time, we must give them a beating; we have no choice."

The question is: What does this beating promised by Peres involve? Late last night, Peres held a consultation with Foreign Minister Baraq, after which he met with U.S. Ambassador to Israel Martin Indyk. Last night, Washington relayed another, sharper message to Syria, including a demand to immediately curb Hizballah activity. This is what Israeli Amb. Itamar Rabinovich said:

[Rabinovich] "Syria is constantly emphasizing that while it has an influence on events in Lebanon, it does not have direct control. I believe that in the wake of today's events, the United States is explaining to them that even if positive answers were given, they are not reflected in the situation on the ground. The situation is very volatile, and the United States does not believe that what we need right now — after all the events that have taken place over the last few weeks — is another focus of explosive tension."

Rabinovich denied reports that the United States is pressuring Israel to refrain from a military operation. He said there is a dialogue and an attempt to calm the tension, but the Americans have not demanded that Israel refrain from reacting, Rabinovich said.

The prime minister said that Israel, from this point of view, is under no political restraints:

[Peres] "The Americans have relayed messages to us, and we said we will examine them in accordance with the situation on the ground. There was no pressure."

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0400 GMT on 21 March adds: "The prime minister said yesterday that Hizballah was employing more sophisticated tactics and Israel must react accordingly. He stressed that Israel does not have a policy of restraint and would respond when the appropriate time comes. Peres said Israel would not rely on paper or promises but would act in line with developments in the field."]

Israeli and U.S. officials assess that Syrian President al-Asad is allowing Hizballah to operate with a view to dragging Israel into a military operation that will turn Israel into the aggressor and bring in its wake

international pressure on Israel, which in turn will extricate al-Asad from the political isolation in which he has found himself after refusing to attend the Sharm al-Shaykh summit.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 21 March carries a related report by David Makovsky and David Rudge on page 1, adding that "a top aide to Prime Minister Peres said last night" that "Israel will not initiate another Operation Accountability-style aerial bombardment of southern Lebanon at this time, but it 'will not preclude a proportional response' to Hizballah attacks." According to the POST, the aide "sought to discourage speculation that Israel was about to start a large-scale operation in south Lebanon, but made clear that Israel will not remain passive as Hizballah accelerates its attacks."]

**Israel: Baraq on IDF Operation in Lebanon,
Reports of U.S. Pressure**

*TA2103072196 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0405 GMT 21 Mar 96*

[Telephone interview with Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq by anchor Yoram Ronen; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ronen] Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq was chief of staff during Operation Accountability some two and a half years ago. Good morning to you, Ehud Baraq.

[Baraq] Good morning. I want to take this opportunity to send my heartfelt condolences to the Zaydan family, which lost Salah, the second son this family has lost, yesterday. We want to give them all the support that is humanly possible.

[Ronen] Mr. Baraq, don't you believe that we are losing our credibility by announcing time and again that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will operate when all we see on the ground is another attack, another roadside bomb, while we avoid any reaction?

[Baraq] We are not losing any credibility. Hizballah will pay the price, but it will be the IDF and the defense establishment, rather than you or me, that will decide the timing and method of our reaction. This decision will not be dictated by a desire to cater to the public's yearning to hear about operations or by the Likud's attacks on the prime minister.

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 21 March includes a related report on page 2 by Ben Kaspit adding: "Likud officials reacted to yesterday's attack by saying: 'Peres is daydreaming and does not understand that you cannot defeat terrorism with words.'"

[An official Likud statement says: 'Peres is harboring illusions, and only this morning he said that Hizballah is curbing its activity. Shortly afterward, Hizballah answered him with another attack against Israel. Peres must understand that words cannot defeat terrorism. Only determined and relentless activity against the terrorists, wherever they are, can do the job'."]

[Ronen] Military correspondents on several stations have reported that the IDF almost launched an operation early this week but, in the wake of pressure from the United States and perhaps other elements as well, the operation was canceled.

[Baraq] There are ongoing U.S. appeals to both sides to exercise restraint, but I don't think their importance should be exaggerated. We take action whenever necessary according to our own considerations. Israel is immune to pressure when it comes to its vital concerns. I have no doubt that we will take action when the conditions are right and when we deem such an operation appropriate.

[Ronen] Until we act, however, more attacks may occur.

[Baraq] That is true, but you must not forget that the IDF is constantly operating in the security zone and beyond it. An effective security policy cannot be conducted by the public, by the radio, or even by government officials turned commentators. Only the IDF and the defense establishment can be in charge of this.

[Ronen] As I said earlier, you were the IDF chief of staff during Operation Accountability. Do you admit that the understandings reached with Hizballah in the wake of that operation are not being honored by that organization?

[Baraq] Operation Accountability achieved very important goals in terms of curbing Hizballah activity for two and a half years. In the past few months, they started deviating from these understandings and, in the long run, this will necessitate a response. As I said earlier, the timing and method of this response will not be decided over the radio.

[Ronen] You admit, then, that Hizballah has been violating the understandings over the last few months?

[Baraq] Certainly. This is the reason for the escalation. Obviously, such an escalation, which is aimed at achieving certain results, creates a new situation on the ground and, at a certain stage, this will necessitate a reaction which will try to stabilize the situation once more.

[Ronen] Does this mean that the IDF's hands are no longer tied by these understandings?

[Baraq] The IDF's hands are tied by our common sense and our desire to guarantee peace for the Galilee. We

must bear in mind that, as painful as the price may be, the IDF is fulfilling its mission in south Lebanon — namely, to safeguard the Galilee. Our main objective is the Galilee, where to the best of my knowledge two civilians were killed over the last three years. This region is flourishing economically, and tourism is on the rise. This fragile situation can be upset easily. The defense establishment is walking a fine line here. On one hand, we must pummel Hizballah and fight it with all our might, and occasionally this requires larger-scale operations. Our main objective, however, is to preserve peace in the Galilee rather than force the Galilee residents into the shelters and destroy the region's tourism and economy.

Israel: Peres—IDF To Do 'Whatever Is Necessary' Against Hizballah

TA2103102196 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0900 GMT 21 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres says the struggle against Hizballah will be based on operational rather than media considerations. At the same time, he promised that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will do whatever is necessary. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that the prime minister made these remarks during a ceremony at which 42 jeeps were transferred to the units patrolling along the dividing line.

Israel: Peres—End of Hizballah Action Condition for Syrian Accord

TA2003133396 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1300 GMT 20 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres says Israel will not stand for peace negotiations with Syria while Damascus continues to abet Hizballah. Although Hizballah is subordinate to Iran, Syria can either reduce or instigate that organization's operations, said the prime minister in the course of a visit to Karmi'el. He noted that terminating Hizballah activities from Lebanon will be one of the conditions for signing a peace agreement with Syria. His remarks were reported by our correspondent Yo'el Dar.

Israel: Clinton Said To Tell Peres Defense Pact 'Premature'

TA2103120596 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 21 Mar 96 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A defense treaty between Israel and the U.S. would be "premature" at this time, President Bill Clinton informed Prime Minister Shim'on Peres last week, Israeli officials say.

The conversation between the two was held on Air Force One on the way back from the Sharm al-Shaykh anti-terrorism summit last Wednesday.

The U.S. believes Peres would like a U.S.-Israel defense treaty as a capstone to a peace treaty with Syria, but in the absence of such a deal, sources fear a bilateral defense treaty could compromise Washington's role as an honest broker in the moribund negotiations between Damascus and Jerusalem.

Furthermore, the sources say it seems very unlikely such a treaty could be completed with two-thirds U.S. Senate approval before Israeli elections in May, which is Peres's target date for an agreement with the U.S.

Finally, the defense establishment here has broadly opposed a treaty, voicing concern such an accord could tie Israel's hands in the event it sought to retaliate for an attack.

Therefore, Peres is now aiming for something more modest: a memorandum of understanding (MOU), an executive agreement not requiring congressional approval. While some have sought to dub this a U.S.-Israel "defense pact," such a title is misleading, since what is envisioned is not a treaty.

Peres wants to sign the MOU during his trip to the U.S. next month, around April 28-29. King Husayn will also be visiting and it appears the two will be guests at a White House luncheon hosted by Clinton.

Israel: U.S. Said Being Deluded by Syria

TA2103121396 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 21 Mar 96 p 6

[Editorial: "American Assurances"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres is entitled to decide that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] should exercise restraint in Lebanon and respond only defensively to Hizballah provocations. He is Israel's leader and the decision is his. And since he believes that there is only a political solution to the relentless war being waged against Israel by this Syrian proxy army, it is only logical for him to refrain from irritating his partner to the negotiations.

The U.S. Administration, too, is entitled to repeat blunders in its assessment of Middle East dictators. It completely and tragically misread Saddam Husayn, certain that he would make an excellent, Western-oriented ally and friend. Believing his assurances of pacific intent with the same single-mindedness it now trusts Syria's dictator Hafiz al-Asad, it practically invited his invasion of Kuwait. But the U.S. is a powerful superpower. It can afford not only to make momentous mistakes, but

to keep the officials who commit them in key State Department positions.

What may be a little puzzling is that even after being repeatedly cheated, misled and betrayed by al-Asad in the past dozen years, the U.S. still trusts his assurances that he will curb the Hizballah. But for the U.S., Syria is not much more than a relatively insignificant tyranny. And it is not American soldiers who are at risk.

The soldiers who are losing their lives on the Lebanese border are Israeli. And it is the duty of Israel's prime minister not to trust irresponsible American assurances which may put Israeli soldiers at risk. He may even want to ponder if these assurances are as trustworthy as past American sedatives about Saddam's intentions, or as reliable as the intelligence the U.S. is expected to provide Israel once the early warning stations on the Golan are relinquished.

To talk about a political solution in Lebanon is fine. All wars end with a political solution. But to accommodate Syrian sensibilities and American daydreams and presidential elections by tying the hands of the Israeli army is unacceptable. All Israelis hope that Peres's vision of peace with the Arab world will materialize before the year 2000. But they do not relish having Israeli soldiers serve as sitting ducks until that time.

Israel: Shaykh Yasin Deportation Discussed; Closure Eased Further

TA2103045296 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
0400 GMT 21 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel intends to deport between five and 10 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists. The prime minister will discuss the legal ramifications of the action and, if need be, consult with his inner cabinet. The newly established counterterrorism unit is also weighing the possibility of deporting jailed Hamas leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin. The proposal was rejected because security officials fear his release [as heard] would set off a wave of disturbances in the territories. They also think that he has information which will lead them to the burial place of soldier Ilan Sa'adon, who was abducted by Hamas terrorists.

The army demolished the home of a terrorist in Abu-Dis near Jerusalem early this morning. The army said in a statement that Iman 'Abd-al-Majid 'Ashur Sidr was involved in attacks in Nahalat Shiv'a on 10 October 1994 and on a soldiers hitchhiking post near the International Convention Center on 15 December 1994. Yesterday in the West Bank, the army demolished three homes of terrorists involved in suicide bomb attacks.

Another easing of the closure on the Gaza Strip: From this morning, Palestinians under the age of 30 will be able to work at the industrial area near Erez. Earlier this week, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] permitted some 2,500 Palestinians above the age of 30 to work at the site.

Israel: General Shohor Allows 30 Palestinian Doctors Into Jerusalem

TA2103084596 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
0800 GMT 21 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General Oren Shohor, coordinator of activities in the territories, has permitted 30 Palestinian physicians from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip to enter Israel despite the closure so that they can get to their jobs in East Jerusalem's hospitals.

Israel: Fugitive al-Sharif's Home in Bayt Hanina Demolished

TA2003140196 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
1300 GMT 20 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The army today demolished the home of terrorist Muhi al-Din al-Sharif in Bayt Hanina. Our police affairs correspondent Aviv Bushinsky notes that al-Sharif has been on the list of fugitives for the past six months on suspicion that he was responsible for preparing the bomb and prepping the suicide terrorist who perpetrated the bombing of bus No. 26 in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Ramot Eshkol about eight months ago.

Israel: 'Terrorist' House in Hebron Area Demolished

TA2003171896 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic*
1430 GMT 20 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It was reported a short while ago that the security forces this evening demolished the home of terrorist 'Abd-al-Majid Dudin in the al-Burj area near Dura in Hebron province. Our correspondent Yasir 'Atilah reports that the terrorist Dudin cooperated with the terrorist Sufyan Jabbarin from al-Zahriyah, the perpetrator of the terrorist operation in bus No. 26 in Jerusalem last summer.

Israel: House of 'Suicide Terrorist' Demolished in Nabulus Area

TA2103104596 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
0900 GMT 21 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Another house belonging to a suicide terrorist has been demolished. This morning, the security forces demolished the home of Labib 'Azzam in the village of Qaryut in the Nabulus district. 'Azzam

carried out the suicide attack on the No. 20 bus in Ramat Gan last summer.

Israel: Likud's Begin Insists PLO-Hamas Accord Exists

TA2103112196 *Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST*
in English 21 Mar 96 p 12

[Report by Sarah Honig]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Labor Party secretary-general Nisim Zvili wrote Chief of Staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahaq yesterday demanding to know whether an understanding exists between the PLO and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] allowing the latter to attack Israelis, as long as this is not done from territory under PLO control.

This is what Likud MK [Knesset Member] Ze'ev Begin steadfastly maintains. Begin said yesterday that, "If such an understanding indeed exists, and I say that it does, then there simply is no Oslo agreement. Such a deal between Hamas and the PLO brings the whole Oslo scheme toppling down."

On Tuesday [19 March] night Begin put his political career at stake when he promised that, if it is proved there is no such PLO-Hamas understanding, he will resign from the Knesset and not run again.

In the Likud this was seen as a clear indication that Begin has no doubt he is on solid ground, and that Labor is in trouble — because once Begin embarks on a subject, he does so tenaciously and relentlessly. A case in point occurred several years ago, when he charged that Peres had promised not to tamper with Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem. After Peres's denials, Begin produced a letter by Peres to the then Norwegian foreign minister saying just that.

Begin yesterday repeated his demand that the full text of Deputy OC Military Intelligence Brig.-Gen. Ya'aqov 'Amidror's report on the relations between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority be made public. From what 'Amidror reportedly told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee last week, he supports the claim that an understanding between the two indeed exists.

Committee chairman MK Hagay Merom (Labor) did not deny yesterday that 'Amidror actually told this to the committee, but argued that it was "a controversial interpretation, which is not shared by the chief of staff."

Begin attacked the very fact that Zvili had appealed to the chief of staff for support in a political row, saying: "Not since the days of the Bolshevik regime has a party secretary-general dispatched a letter to the chief of staff in order to save the lost honor of a party whose policy has collapsed. This is just not done in a democracy."

Begin said that although his contentions are not based on 'Amidor's report, the government's suppression of the report, which was prepared for the U.S. Congress, "is an act of political censorship."

Begin said he formed his opinion three months ago from independent sources, "including open pronouncements

by the PLO. On December 22, 1995 this understanding between 'Arafat and the Hamas was arrived at in Cairo. Labor's attempts to evade the issue, by arguing that it was not a signed document, is irrelevant and impudent. This is an understanding and it does not matter if it was not signed before a public notary."

Jordan: Interior Minister Denies Setting Up Camp for Iraqis*JN2103115696 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
21 Mar 96 pp 1, 21*

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — Interior Minister Dr. 'Awad Khulayfat has denied media reports that the government intends to set up a camp in the al-Azraq area to accommodate the increasing number of Iraqis arriving in Jordan as a result of the deteriorating economic conditions in Iraq.

Khulayfat told AL-RA'Y: This matter is not under consideration. Khulayfat pointed out that Iraqis have been staying in various areas in the Kingdom for about five years.

Khulayfat said the government's decision to exempt Iraqis from residence fees is no more than a humanitarian gesture for a small group of Iraqi brothers Jordan who wanted to return to Iraq but could not pay these fees. He added that exempting a few dozen Iraqis from these fees is not a burden on the state treasury.

Information Minister Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir said that there are 50,000-60,000 Iraqis in Jordan.

Jordan: Prime Minister Says Country's Security 'Not Negotiable'*JN2003135596 Amman Radio Jordan in English
1200 GMT 20 Mar 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has said that there are some detained people under interrogation and they will be treated according to the Jordanian law. In a reply to a question during today's Lower House of Parliament session, the premier asserted that security in Jordan is not a negotiable issue.

At the beginning of the session, Speaker of the House Sa'd Hayil al-Surur declared that the internal regulation of the Lower House of Parliament has been issued with a royal decree endorsement starting from the 16th of March 1996. On the occasion, Mr. al-Surur voiced his thanks to his majesty the king; His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent; the government; and members of the House's Law Committee.

Jordan: Al-Kabariti Cited on Parliament Briefing, 'Secret Session'*MM2003145396 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
20 Mar 96 pp 1, 6*

[Report by Tariq al-Mawmani: "Information From House of Representatives Secret Session: Jordan Would Not Enter Iraq Except at Its Own Request"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — Jordanian parliamentary sources quoted Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti yesterday as saying that Jordan would not take part in violating Iraqi sovereignty. However, he

distinguished between attacking an Arab state and entering it at its own request.

The sources told AL-HAYAH that al-Kabariti pointed out that Jordanian forces "entered Syria in 1973 at Syria's request" during the October war. "And some other Arab states entered [Syria] to conduct training courses." He added that the prime minister pointed out that disagreements between some Arab states are to do with competition over regional roles. And he called for double standards in attitudes to be abandoned.

Al-Kabariti did not rule out that Israel could carry out large-scale reprisal military operations in southern Lebanon.

Al-Kabariti said that "Jordan would not hesitate to adopt a pan-Arab position compatible with its constant values and eagerness to safeguard the achievements of the peace process and not to encroach on Arab rights anywhere if Israel embarks on any military action in southern Lebanon." He stressed Jordan's condemnation of terrorism, whatever its source, aims, and objectives.

Al-Kabariti put the House of Representatives in the picture as regards developments on the Jordanian scene and in the region and the world during a three-hour session which was dominated by frankness. Islamic opposition deputy Dr. Bassam al-'Amush described the session as "excellent and very relaxed, during which issues were discussed very clearly and openly. And the prime minister's answers too were clear and frank."

Al-Kabariti revealed that "over the past six months Jordan has been subjected to 36 terrorist attempts aimed against key figures in the regime, Jordanian and other politicians, and some Jordanian institutions." He gave no further details, nor did he reveal whether these attempts had any extensions outside Jordan. He said that "the attempts were aimed at harming Jordan and undermining its security and stability." He added: "These attempts were aimed at fomenting sedition and arousing some tendentious feelings."

Deputy Dr. Fawzi Tu'aymah, chairman of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, said after the session that "Prime Minister al-Kabariti answered the questions put forward, stressing Jordan's main constant values and eagerness to maintain balanced relations with all the Arab states and positive and constructive relations at the regional and international levels." The Jordanian prime minister said after the session: "It was an excellent meeting, during which I reviewed all aspects of Jordan's foreign policy."

With regard to Iraq, Tu'aymah said: "The prime minister stressed that Jordan will never become an arena for hitting Iraq, and that Jordan will not interfere in Iraq's

internal affairs," pointing out that the U.S. aircraft to be deployed in Jordan are for training only, and they will conduct sorties over southern Iraq but Jordanian pilots will not participate in these sorties. He stressed that "Jordan will not be a bridgehead for any other power to achieve its aims in Iraq, nor will it be a party to any attack on Iraq's sovereignty," as revealed by Islamic deputy Bassam al-'Amush.

The chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee said: "The prime minister reemphasized the Jordanian position supportive of Palestinian rights in the occupied Arab territories, and he focused on the fixed Jordanian position calling for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the establishment of a Palestinian state on Palestinian territory with holy Jerusalem as its capital."

On the Jordanian-Palestinian confederation issue, the prime minister said that "this is not our priority at the moment, and we have requested that this issue be postponed until the establishment of a Palestinian state and the determination of the Palestinian people's future."

On Jordan's relations with Syria, al-Kabariti said: "Jordan has made several attempts to establish a Jordanian-Syrian relationship based on mutual respect — a relationship that is effective and influential."

Al-Kabariti described his meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in Cairo last week as "a stormy meeting that involved confrontation [muwajahah] and openness [musarahah]. It was a Jordanian attempt to improve relations with Syria. And the meeting ended calmly with us trying to understand one another's view." He added: "The meeting was extremely frank — frank to a degree which paves the ways for a better understanding in the future." However, he did not point to any tangible results as regards restoring relations to their normal status." Al-Kabariti went on to say: "Jordan did what its pan-Arab role dictates in this connection and expressed its wish to restore relations to their normal status. He said that the other party is required to express its wish to do so, since the process involves two parties." He stressed that there is no disagreement over the main issues concerning the peace process, because everyone proceeded from the same point, that is the Madrid conference. The disagreement is to do with the roles some states are seeking to play in the region."

Deputy Tu'aymah pointed out that "Prime Minister al-Kabariti pointed to positive developments with regard to Jordan's relations with the Gulf states." He said that they "are improving constantly."

He said: "Jordan maintains balanced relations with all the Arab states and is in harmony with its pan-Arab role and fixed position based on respect for the sovereignty of every Arab state and noninterference in any state's political decisionmaking."

On the Summit of Peacemakers in Sharm al-Shaykh, the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee said: "The prime minister stressed that there are no secret resolutions, and that the closed session that followed the open session lasted no more than 15 minutes. The only speech was delivered by King Husayn, who summed up what was discussed in the open session. He pointed out that Jordan played a distinguished role in holding an Arab meeting on the periphery of the summit to secure a joint Arab view on the issues raised, including peace and regional and international security."

Oppositionist deputy Bassam al-'Amush said that "Prime Minister al-Kabariti considered the Summit of Peacemakers positive and successful." He added that a U.S. paper and an Israeli paper were presented for use as a draft final statement for the conference, but the Arabs, thanks to their coordination, were able to impose their own paper, 70 percent of whose content was used in the final statement. This is why the talk was not directly associated with terrorism but, rather, with bolstering the peace process, maintaining security, and combating terrorism. And that King Husayn's summary in the Arab paper became the conference's final statement.

With regard to public freedoms and the democratic process, Deputy Tu'aymah said: "Prime Minister al-Kabariti stressed that the rule of law is the basis, and as long as arrests are made within the boundaries of the law they are not wrong, nor are they a violation of freedoms and democratic principles," pointing out that what the government is doing in this connection is aimed at safeguarding Jordan's security and stability.

Deputy Tu'aymah said that al-Kabariti "broached Iraq's acceptance of Security Council Resolution 986 (oil for food), saying that the delay in Iraq's negotiations with the United Nations is attributable to obstructive attempts by some states which do not want to see Iraq overcome its difficulties, pointing out that Jordan has sought and is seeking to help the Iraqi people to eliminate the bad situation they are experiencing."

Tu'aymah said that "the deputies told Prime Minister al-Kabariti that Jordan's call for democracy should not be limited to Baghdad. It should be a general appeal to all the Arab peoples."

And the Jordanian prime minister told the deputies that judgments should not be characterized by double

standards, and that we should not ask Jordan alone, and not others, to play certain roles and adopt certain policies concerning some Arab issues, pointing out that "many of the stances criticized by the deputies were adopted by fraternal Arab states, but the Jordanian opposition took no notice of them." He gave no further details.

Deputy al-'Amush cited al-Kabariti as saying that "Iraq is proscribed [mustabah], and UN inspectors enter not only ministries and government departments, but also homes — which means that Iraqi sovereignty is nonexistent."

He said that "the prime minister said that we should not criticize our democracy while we describe some other Arab states as very democratic when they are practicing terrorism against their people and violating their rights."

He said that al-Kabariti said in reply to a question about the arrests: "We are not demolishing mosques or shedding blood. Any person we arrest is arrested because of his violation of the law or because of his disruption of security and stability.... The government should be thanked for that."

Jordan: Hamas Spokesman Ghawshah Reportedly Under House Arrest

TA2103132096 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
21 Mar 96 p 5

[By special AL-QUDS correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman — Informed sources have said that Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, the spokesman for Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in Jordan, has been placed under house arrest and is not allowed to travel abroad.

The sources affirmed that the telephone in Eng. Ghawshah's home is being wiretapped and that Ghawshah cannot move around freely.

The sources added that Eng. Ghawshah is not issuing press statements following a direct demand by the security authorities and he has been instructed not to answer phone calls. [passage omitted]

Jordan: Source Says Government Negotiating With Israel Over Deportees

JN2103111296 Amman THE STAR in English
21-28 Mar 96 p 1

[Report by Hamdan al-Hajj and Ra'id al-'Abid]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti defended his government's recent crack-down against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists during Wednesday's Lower House session. He

said the government was committed to the security of the country which could not be compromised and that all detainees will be dealt with in accordance to the law.

Mr. al-Kabariti was responding to an attack by IAF [Islamic Action Front] deputy 'Abdallah al-'Akayilah who accused the government of being dragged into a confrontation with its own citizens over the peace process. The recent detention of a number of Islamist activists in Jordan has been confirmed by Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti in his meeting with the Lower House's Foreign Relations Committee a day earlier. But al-Kabariti emphasized that those cleared of charges will be released.

Mr. al-Kabariti also denied that the recent anti-terrorist meeting held in Egypt had secret clauses.

Islamist Deputy Dr. Bassam al-'Umush confirmed the detentions. But while reiterating the Prime Minister's statement on the legal rights of the detainees, he emphasized his objection to the detentions. He added that Hamas does not exist in Jordan as an organization, though there are only three Jordanian citizens who represent Hamas in Jordan.

In his meeting with members of the Lower House Tuesday, the Prime Minister said Jordan has been exposed to 36 terrorist actions aimed at several officials, public figures, and institutions during the last six months. However, al-Kabariti did not allude to the perpetrators or to the states which stood behind them. But he explained that such plots were meant to undermine Jordan's security and stability. He added that such issues could not be tolerated and that no one was above the law. The meeting was attended by Lower House Speaker Sa'd Hayil al-Surur and a number of cabinet ministers.

Islamist deputy Dr. Dhib 'Abdallah, who is also head of the Human Rights Committee in Lower House, told THE STAR that the arrests were limited in number and did not exceed "20 persons, five of them were released, and the rest will be released shortly."

"They were arrested on suspicion of their ties to illegal organizations. But till now no evidence was presented against them," 'Abdallah said. He said that "the recent anti-terrorism summit in Egypt may have prompted the government to take such precautionary measures."

He quoted security sources as saying that three of those arrested were carrying explosive materials and weapons and were trying to cross into the occupied territories. "They will be sent to court within two days."

An official at the Arab Organization for Human Rights (AOHR) in Amman expressed his concern over the latest arrests and confirmed that the organization had

received some complaints but that the AOHR had no specific numbers of those arrested. "These arrests are unacceptable. This will raise doubts over the liberalism of the al-Kabariti government," said Labib Qamhawi, president of the AOHR.

Observers believe Mr. al-Kabariti's meeting with the deputies was aimed at watering down any strong reaction from Parliament, especially the Islamic bloc, against the latest arrests. But they added that the latest arrests will create tension between the Islamic Action Front (IAF) and the government, especially if hunting down Muslim activists becomes a state policy.

A source told THE STAR that the coming days will reveal a number of surprising developments. He said Israel is negotiating with Jordan the possibility of deporting alleged Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists from the occupied territories to Jordan, especially those who hold Jordanian passports. According to the same source the past two days witnessed such discussions between a senior Israel defense official and a top Jordanian military personnel.

Hamas' representative in Amman, Mr. Muhammad Nazzal, left Jordan for Syria two weeks ago. The two other Jordanians with Hamas connections, Ibrahim Ghawshah and 'Imad al-'Alami, were ordered by the authorities to inform the police of their whereabouts every 10 hours. These measures came for two reasons; according to the source, one for their own protection and the other to limit their activities including giving press statements.

Hamas and other Palestinian opposition factions have a strong base in most Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan. Their representatives control most council seats in these camps. The local authorities have reportedly arrested supporters of these factions, which include the banned Fatah al-Intifada, in the past years, but late last year many of them were released. Most of these factions are opening offices in Amman under guise of research centers. Their activities are limited to propaganda through peaceful means.

On the other hand, the Prime Minister did not exclude a possible Israeli offensive in south Lebanon against Hizballah activities. But he reiterated Jordan's unchangeable opposition to such military operations in harmony with its domestic, Arab and regional policies.

Al-Kabariti explained that Jordanian-Kuwaiti relations are on the right course and are being gradually restored. Al-Kabariti added that healthy Arab relations have to be established on mutual respect and the non-interference in the internal affairs of others.

As for the issue of Iraq, Mr. al-Kabariti said that Jordan will never be a bridge for any aggression against Iraq and that the fighters that Jordan is scheduled to obtain will not be directed against Iraq. He added that Jordanian pilots will not be part of the surveillance flights over Iraqi territories.

Jordan: Columnist Says 'No Innocent People Among Jews'

JN2003142296 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic
5-11 Mar 96 p 3

["Jordanian Papers" column by Deputy Chief Editor Samih al-Ma'ayitah: "Yes for this Jihad"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Many Arab officials have repeatedly come to the fore to condemn terrorism and violence and to make a distinction between Islam and Islamic movements, some of which use firearms. They have used hackneyed phrases that draw apathy, among other things. They have been talking about Islamic terrorism as if the universe turned into a utopia similar to children's entertainment centers, and as if this utopia was disturbed only by these beasts who bear arms in the face of tamed regimes and the mujahidin of Palestine.

There have been condemnations of Islamic movements in Egypt. By contrast, we have not heard any statement critical of the murders, arrests, and violence perpetrated by the Egyptian regime. In the past, the Muslim Brotherhood suffered all kinds of repression, aggression, and massacres at the hands of the 'Abd-al-Nasir regime. Under that regime, some 20,000 Muslim Brotherhood members were arrested in a single night. Worse still, death sentences were passed and all kinds of abominable torture were used against prisoners. To add insult to injury, the prisoners saw their mothers and sisters raped by criminal prison wardens with their very eyes because they dared to voice a dissenting view and adopted an ideological stand toward this regime.

In Algeria, and under the very eyes of the democratic West and at its behest, the Algerian people's right to choose their leaders was confiscated. There have been condemnations of an Islamic group that is bearing arms. But we have failed to hear a statement denouncing state terrorism by the Arab theoreticians who profess to be champions of justice and peace.

The Arab stand on the Palestine question, which is so special and crystal clear, draws criticism for the official Arab stand. For the PLO leaders and the heads of Arab regimes were not contented with their acquiescence to Jewish dictates and demands, and with their resigned acceptance that this age is that of the Zionists. In fact, they have begun to speak on behalf of Islam. As such,

they have started to tell people what is permissible, and what is not. They have also begun to brand the mujahidin who resist occupation as terrorists, and Hamas (the Islamic Resistance Movement) as a terrorist organization. They are saying that the killing of Jews is a crime. They are repetitiously evoking the words "innocent people" and the "peace process."

To them, we would like to say that there are no innocent people among Jews, for they are all soldiers and settlers, and they are all paws of aggression. With regard to the peace process, it is a process shepherded by the regimes that signed documents to ensure their survival and the survival of their heads. These documents have restored neither rights nor sanctities.

What peace are they talking about while Jerusalem is still under occupation and the leaders of Israel announce everywhere that united Jerusalem is their eternal capital?

What peace is this while the aggression continues against southern Lebanon and its patient people? What peace is this while the keys of the empire of the self-rule are in the hands of Peres who closes it whenever he becomes angry with 'Arafat?

What peace is this while the leaders of the [Palestinian] Authority cannot bring any Palestinian into "the independent state" without the approval of the Zionist security?

What peace is this while millions of the Palestinian people are still in the diaspora deprived of their right to return to their homeland?

The peace process is a big lie and another name for the submission of the political Arab order, particularly most of the cordon states to the Zionist master. Far away from diplomacy, we, as well as the people whose sentiments are not represented by the condemnation of the leaders that "terrorism," which is practiced by Hamas against occupation, is legalized by the book of God, the Sunna [sayings and doings] of his messenger, peace be upon him, and by the people's right to life and to restoring their land and sanctities. As regimes did not legalize resistance in the past it will not legalize jihad against the Zionists. What is the value of any official stand in front of God's saying: Strongest among men in enmity to the believers wilt thou find the Jews. [Koranic verse] and His saying: Fight them, and Allah will punish them by your hands, and disgrace them help you to victory over them, heal the breasts of believers. [Koranic verse]

What is the value of any condemnation before the saying of the prophet, peace be upon him: "If an inch of the land of the Muslims is occupied jihad shall be the duty of every Muslim."

We say to those who were grieved over a killed Jewish woman: Where was your grief during the massacres of Dayr Yasin, Sabra, Shatila, and Kafr Qasim, as well as during al-Karamah battle, the daily shelling of southern Lebanon, and the days of the intifadah? Yes to terrorizing and killing the Jewish occupiers and a greeting to the hero martyrs and to struggling Hamas and its valiant battalions.

Jordan: Official Reacts to Report on Leakage at Dimona Reactor

JN2103122496 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
21 Mar 96 p 1

[Report by 'Isam Qadamani]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman — Answering a question from AL- RA'Y on an Israeli television report yesterday on radiation leakage near the Dimona reactor, Ahmad al-Bashir, under secretary in the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, said Jordan has modern, advanced equipment to measure the extent of the contamination that results from such cases and to determine whether it is hazardous or not.

Al-Bashir said: Starting today, the ministry will take the necessary measurements and carry out the necessary tests to determine if there any signs of leakage in the area.

He said: If these reports are confirmed by Israeli authorities, the ministry will make official inquiries to determine the extent and cause of the problem. [passage omitted]

Jordan: EU Grant of 100 Million ECU Approved

JN1903153896 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
18 Mar 96 pp 1, 32

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A responsible source at the Ministry of Planning stated that the EU has agreed to offer Jordan a grant totaling 100 million ECU, equivalent to \$128 million, for 1996.

In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR, the source added that this grant is part of 4,685 million ECU's, equivalent to \$6 billion, the EU promised to offer southern and eastern Mediterranean states during the period 1995-99.

The source revealed that negotiations are currently under way between the Jordanian Government and the EU to obtain a grant totaling 7 million ECU, equivalent to \$9 million, to be used in promoting the institutional structure of the national export sector as well as the technical and marketing services of this sector.

The source asserted that the EU agreed to Jordan exporting 82 agricultural commodities to EU states without any customs restrictions.

The source added: "This will help market our agricultural commodities, promote agricultural production, obtain the foreign currency the agricultural sector needs, and make available the capital it requires."

The Jordanian delegation to the negotiations with Europe on partnership had submitted a list containing 132

agricultural commodities and requested that they be allowed to be exported to the EU without any customs restrictions. The source denied that there are any contradictions between the proposed Jordanian-European partnership arrangement and the agreements signed with the Arab states. [passage omitted]

Lebanon: VOL Reports Islamic Resistance Suicide Operation in South

NC2003125596 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1241 GMT 20 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Before ending this newscast, we have direct communication from our newsdesk. I believe it is Caroline who is on the line.

[Newsdesk staffer Caroline] George, our correspondent reported a short time ago that a member of the Islamic Resistance carried out a suicide operation in the Rabb al-Thalathin triangle in the al-'Udaysah area. The target was an Israeli military position. There were numerous dead or wounded as a result.

Lebanon: Radio Says Israeli Motorcade Destroyed by Suicide Attack

NC2003131996 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] According to security reports, a martyrdom attacker blew himself up just as he reached a motorcade, comprised of security and command officials of the Israeli army, on the road between Rabb al-Thalathin and al-'Udaysah inside the occupied border strip at 1345 today. He succeeded in destroying the motorcade.

Lebanon: Hizballah Radio Reports Suicide Operation, Casualties

NC2003135096 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1335 GMT 20 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In retaliation for the Sharm al-Shaykh summit and the Zionist threats, a member of the Islamic Resistance carried out a suicide operation against an enemy officers' motorcade at the Rabb al-Thalathin triangle, few hundred meters from the international borders and near the Misgav 'Am settlement at 1345 today.

The operation left several enemy commanders dead or wounded. According to security reports, a ranking Zionist officer was in the motorcade, which consisted of five military cars.

Lebanon: Further on Suicide Operation; Israeli Shelling Reported

NC2003145096 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1405 GMT 20 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli occupation forces have been bombarding the township of Qabrikha since 1400 today. Shells are still falling on the township, scoring direct hits on some houses. Other areas are being shelled, including Majdal Slim and the outskirts

of Tulin. Well over 250 large-caliber rounds landed on the areas. Columns of smoke rose above the targeted zones.

Elsewhere, security reports say a suicide bomber blew himself up as an enemy officers' motorcade was driving on the Rabb al-Thalathin-al-'Udaysah road inside the occupied border strip this afternoon. He destroyed the motorcade. Information has it that the Resistance member pounced on an occupation forces' security motorcade. A ranking enemy officer was in the motorcade. The information added that enemy helicopters are currently hovering over the scene of the operation.

Security reports note that the enemy forces brought armored reinforcements to the scene and threw a security cordon around al-Tayyibah and al-'Udaysah. Other reports, as yet unconfirmed, identify the Israeli official in the motorcade as the head of the Israeli liaison unit, [Uri 'Anbar].

AFP reported that one Israeli soldier was killed and six were wounded during the suicide operation.

We have just received the following report from our newsdesk: The areas of Bra'shit, Shaqra, Majdal Slim, Qabrikha, Tulin, al-Suwwanah, and nearby valleys are currently coming under fierce bombardment from the occupation forces' positions in Tallusah, Muhaybib, and al-Qantarrah. This bestial bombardment has prompted citizens to head for the shelters. Traffic has come to a standstill.

Lebanon: IDF Officer, SLA Soldier Killed by Suicide Bomber

TA2003173896 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 20 Mar 96

[Alon Ben-David's video report introduced by anchor Hayim Yavin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Yavin] An IDF [Israeli Defense Forces] officer and an SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldier were killed and an Israeli civilian was slightly injured when a suicide terrorist blew himself up near an IDF convoy moving from Metulla to the village of al-Tayyibah in the security zone. The Israeli officer is Captain Salah Kamal Zaydan, 23 and a half years old, from Bet Jann. Our correspondent Alon Ben-David is in the Lebanese border area. Will you sum up the day's events in Lebanon for us, Alon?

[Ben-David] Today, while the prime minister spoke about a soothing message on south Lebanon that the Syrians conveyed to the United States, Hizballah went on a rampage in south Lebanon. Three explosive charges went off in the security zone today, and the events

reached their peak in a suicide attack on an IDF convoy, as a result of which an IDF officer was killed and an Israeli civilian riding with the convoy was slightly injured. [passage omitted]

One of the personnel in the convoy was the commander of the sector, a colonel. According to some eyewitnesses, the terrorist saluted the commander as the convoy passed him. The sector commander's jeep took a blow, but since it was an armor plated vehicle, it managed to stop most of the metal shards. The officer who was killed and the civilian who sustained injuries were riding a tanker.

This terrorist attack represents an escalation, since nothing similar has been witnessed in the security zone for a very long time. Hizballah has claimed responsibility for the attack. The suicide attacker simply waited for the IDF convoy some 2 km west of Metulla and blew himself up as the convoy was passing him. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 20 March adds: "This evening Israel again relayed a sharp message to the United States stating that if Syria does not restrain Hizballah, Israel will consider itself free to operate against this organization's positions in south Lebanon."]

Lebanon: Heavy Fire in South, North of Security Zone

TA2003132496 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
1305 GMT 20 Mar 96

[Report by Ilan Ro'e]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Violent explosions have been reverberating over the past hour in the Israeli towns in northern Israel as a result of the heavy fire exchanged between terrorists and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops, mainly in the central and eastern sectors of the security zone. The IDF has been shelling terrorist targets north of the security zone. [passage omitted]

Lebanon: Fadlallah Says Military Strike Costly for Israel

NC2003134596 *Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic*
1215 GMT 20 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has declared that Israel, although backed by the United States, is in a predicament and will find it very costly to carry out a military strike against Lebanon.

He said that the Lebanese state is stronger now than at any previous time, explaining that the Israeli threats and the U.S. Embassy's statement criticizing the Lebanese

judiciary are merely ways of easing the atmosphere of psychological defeat that the Israelis feel. He noted that they also demonstrate the Israeli and U.S. anger at the Lebanese Government's sympathy with the resistance and its backing for it as a popular movement that resists the Israeli occupation and fights against it.

Concerning the peaceful settlement process, Fadlallah said he does not think it will be retracted, but it might perhaps be delayed until after the Israeli elections.

Lebanon: Defense Minister Dallul—Israeli Strike Would End Peace Process

NC2003190596 *London MBC Television in Arabic*
1800 GMT 20 Mar 96

[Report by 'Ali Nun from Beirut]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] During an interview with MBC Television in Beirut, Lebanese Defense Minister Dallul declared that if Israel carries out a military strike against Lebanon it will pose a major threat to the entire peace process.

Dallul was speaking while military tension in south Lebanon had abated, as senior Israeli officials began to tone down their statements on the situation.

The Lebanese defense minister uttered clear remarks about the fate of the entire peace process.

[Begin Dallul recording] We wish to emphasize that no one can really control this game, because it is a dangerous game that can get out of hand. Any assault on Lebanon will cause the peace process to collapse. Even the agreements that have been concluded, which their owners are touting as major achievements, will be under threat. [end recording]

Minister Dallul reiterated Lebanon's emphatic refusal to allow any Palestinian deported by Israel from the occupied territories to enter Lebanon. He recalled a similar announcement by Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri on this issue.

[Begin Dallul recording] We have decided not to accept any of these deportees in any form, regardless of the consequences or motives. We refuse to admit these deportees into the country. There are other countries they can go to. [end recording] [passage omitted]

The Lebanese Army has adopted major security measures to forestall any deportation of Palestinians to Lebanon. It has laid mines at the crossings leading to the occupied border strip in south Lebanon. In 1992 the Lebanese Army succeeded in preventing around 400 Palestinian deportees, members of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad, expelled by Israel to the Marj al-Zuhur area, from entering Lebanese

territory. Those deportees remained in Marj al-Zuhur for about a year before they could return to their country.

That the Israeli threats to Lebanon are diminishing does not mean the danger has passed. As Minister Dallul has stated, the danger threatens the peace process more than it threatens south Lebanon, meaning that any new Israeli aggression will spell the end of the peace process.

Lebanon: Al-Hariri—No Israeli Operation in South 20 Mar

NC2003203296 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
2000 GMT 20 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has denied reports that an Israeli military operation took place in the south today. He noted that the situation in the south has not changed. He stressed that the cycle of violence can only be ended through an Israeli withdrawal, the implementation of UN resolutions, and by reaching a fair and comprehensive solution in the region. In a statement after tonight's cabinet meeting, he said: Despite all that has been reported, we still believe in a peaceful solution in the region leading to an Israeli withdrawal from the south, Western al-Biqā', and the Golan Heights. He stressed that any Israeli military action in the south will harm the peace process.

Lebanon: Israeli Helicopters Rake Western al-Biqā' Areas

NC2003205496 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
2015 GMT 20 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] According to our correspondent in al-Biqā', two Israeli helicopters tonight raked the al-Qatranah and Shubayl farm areas in Western al-Biqā' with machine guns. The helicopters also directed fire at the Jabal Abu Rashid hills and Birkat Jabbur. Flares illuminated the al-'Ayshiyah area. Hizballah sources asserted that there were no casualties.

Lebanon: Al-Hariri Discusses Situation in South

NC2103081796 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
0530 GMT 21 Mar 96

[Statements by Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri to unidentified correspondents after a Council of Ministers meeting in Beirut on 20 March]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the information available up to now, there is nothing of this; the reports [about an Israeli military operation in the south] are not true.

[Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, [words indistinct].

[Al-Hariri] The information we have received so far says that the situation in the south has not changed.

[Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, before the suicide operation, Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said that if the Lebanese authorities control the situation in the south, Israel will do the same. After the suicide operation, Peres said that they want [word indistinct]. The question is: Is there any harmony and coordination between the government and the resistance to prevent Israel from using any operation to attack Lebanon?

[Al-Hariri] The resistance is there because the occupation is there. We have repeated this so many times. We believe that a solution to this cycle of violence lies in Israel's withdrawal, its implementation of the UN resolutions, and the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the region. We have been saying this for many years, and I think the Israelis, the Americans, and the Arabs know it. Some arrangement for this was made through the so-called July 1993 agreement. There is nothing new today. Despite the fact that all this has been said, and despite all situations, we still hope that a peaceful solution will be reached in the region, one that leads to Israel's withdrawal from the south, al-Biqā', and the Golan.

[Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, do you expect a new Israeli operation in the south?

[Al-Hariri] No. We do not have information about anything like that.

[Correspondent] Have the Americans and the Egyptians assured you about the results of their urgent contacts yesterday? It has been said that President Clinton personally intervened to stop an operation [words indistinct].

[Al-Hariri] I believe that the Egyptians, the Americans, and all involved parties are concerned about the peace process. Any military action in the south will inevitably affect the peace process negatively.

[Correspondent] Did the U.S. Administration in the past two days ask the Lebanese Government to stop operations [against Israel] and demonstrate self-restraint?

[Al-Hariri] The Lebanese Government could be asked to do this if it were the party carrying out the operations, but these operations are being carried out by the resistance [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] [words indistinct] the U.S. Embassy statement and [words indistinct].

[Al-Hariri] The U.S. Embassy statement is related to courts, not to anything else. We talked about this yesterday.

[Correspondent] [question indistinct]

[Al-Hariri] We are in constant touch with all friendly countries; we always contact them, day and night. The foreign minister, the president, myself, and all those concerned are making continuous contacts with all friendly countries.

[Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, you said a while ago that you have no control over the resistance.

[Al-Hariri] The resistance is inspired by the existing occupation.

[Correspondent] Is there not any coordination to prevent Israel from using a certain political development? Against the background of Israeli elections and other political circumstances in the region, Israel may use what is happening in the south.

[Al-Hariri] You are making me repeat our traditional position. A solution to this does not lie in applying pressure on this party or that. This situation has been there for many years, during which the south has paid a heavy price. We have been talking about the same subjects for years; namely, the resistance, disarming the resistance, self-restraint, Israeli attacks, and so on. The solution can be achieved through negotiations. We entered the negotiations. Lebanon is ready, and so is Syria. The ball is in Israel's court. Now, they have the elections. It is they that decided to hold elections, not us. The negotiations were going on, and suddenly we heard that they wanted to hold elections. This is their business. Our position is very realistic and based on facts, on the UN resolutions, and on the principles of the Madrid conference. Now, Israel has elections and is waiting to finish with them. This concerns Israel, not Lebanon. So it is not logical that we start looking for a solution to the problem in another place. A solution to the problem is not in Lebanon or in Syria; it is in Israel. There is still some time before the elections; and these elections will play some role.

[Correspondent] Has the state taken special measures to confront any Israeli aggression?

[Al-Hariri] The Lebanese State is doing all it can. The Lebanese Army is ready; all state services are on alert, and we are watching the situation closely.

[Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, do your remarks yesterday about certain practices in the Palestinian camps [in Lebanon] fall within this context [as heard]?

[Al-Hariri] What do you mean? No, it is not related. Even if this situation does not exist, this remains our position. We discussed this subject at the Council of Ministers today.

[Correspondent] Did the ministers agree, or [words indistinct]?

[Al-Hariri] Concerning resistance, all the Lebanese agree that the resistance is a result of the occupation. We agree on this. Concerning non-Lebanese organizations that have nothing to do with resistance and that issue statements or engage in practices like — as I said yesterday — bringing television stations to take pictures [of Palestinian youngsters ready to carry out suicide operations against Israel] in 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp, I believe this harms both the Palestinians and the Lebanese. We do not accept this, and we are against it.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] state of alert in the camps?

[Al-Hariri] These are show acts. What alert? Is the camp a battle front? What is going on?

[Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, some Israeli officials are saying that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and other organizations have offices....

[Al-Hariri, interrupting] Where?

[Correspondent] In Lebanon.

[Al-Hariri] And in London. Offices, as offices, exist. We....

[Correspondent, interrupting] Are these offices recognized by the Lebanese state?

[Al-Hariri] No, no. There are offices....[pauses] Some people issue statements. You know that this is an open country with free media. All world news media are present here. You cannot prevent someone from picking up the phone to say there is a statement by this organization or that. Nevertheless, we do not accept even this; we do not approve of these statements. These statements and other small things are portraying a false image of Lebanon. Lebanon is not an area for these things; it has not returned to the pre-1982 situation. Those who are talking about this know this fact; they know that the Lebanese state is in control of the situation, but the resistance is caused by the occupation. Outside the scope of resistance, which is a result of the occupation, we do not accept anything. No one can act outside the framework of the Lebanese resistance of the Israeli occupation of the Lebanese territory in the south and Western al-Biqa'.

[Correspondent] Don't you have fears of any military developments in the south or an Israeli military operation?

[Al-Hariri] Israel possesses the initiative in this, but we say that any military action against Lebanon will target not only Lebanon but the peaceful solution in the region. It will severely complicate things and make

the Arabs — all the Arabs, not only Lebanon and Syria — hesitant about the peace process. They will raise a big question mark on Israel's seriousness in reaching a peaceful solution. A peaceful solution does not mean you launch war. When we reach a solution and Israel withdraws, any act [against Israel] will indeed be unjustified and condemned, but Israel is occupying the land and condemning the people who are resisting this occupation before any solution is reached. I think that no country in the world accepts his logic.

Lebanon: Speaker Returns From Tour, Comments on Situation

NC2103064196 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 21 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri returned to Beirut from the Ivory Coast at 2230 yesterday following a two week tour that also included a visit to Brazil.

Speaker Birri said at the airport that he will visit President Ilyas al-Hirawi today and will be briefed on developments in the country. Birri added that he will study the situation in the south, which is causing concern, specifically since the statements issued in Beirut indicate that Israeli political and security officials are worrying. He said: While in the Ivory Coast, we expressed our fears about statements that recalled what happened before 1982, and this issue will be seriously considered.

Lebanon: Iranian Envoy's Statement Reacts to Israeli 'Threats'

NC2003215496 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 20 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In response to remarks by Uri Lubrani, Israeli coordinator for Lebanese affairs, the Iranian ambassador in Beirut has released a statement. It said that using threats and reminding the Lebanese of the Israeli occupation of part of Lebanon in 1982 to intimidate Lebanon, Syria, Iran, and other regional countries will cause the Zionist entity danger greater than the concern and fear that the Israeli statement arouses in the Islamic and Arab nation and the steadfast and resisting Lebanese people.

Lebanon: Israeli Shelling, Helicopter Flights Reported Overnight

NC2103065596 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 21 Mar 96

[Report by NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent Qasim Safa in Tyre, southern Lebanon—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tension has continued in the south. Villages adjacent to the occupied region were targeted by Israeli aggressions that negatively affected people's daily lives in terms of the economy and education. The aggressions continued until the early hours of Thursday [21 March] morning.

At dawn today, Israeli helicopters shelled valleys, woods, and the outskirts of villages in the western and central sectors, particularly the line extending from Majdal Zun in the western sector to Haddatha, Bra'shit, and Shaqra' in the central sector. This was preceded by an evening shelling. At 2400, the shelling was renewed, and it targeted Wadi al-Hujayr and the outer parts of Frun and al-Ghanduriyah. At the same time, the towns of Kafra, Yatar, and Haris were under artillery shelling originating from the occupation posts in Yarin. The shelling was later extended to the periphery of Siddiqin. According to reports, a citizen, Muhammad Sumaykah, was injured in the Israeli shelling.

The brutal shelling also targeted a cattle herd near the town of al-Suwwanah. Citizen 'Ali Yusuf Sultan was injured and many goats were killed. Just after 0130, the towns of al-Hinnayah and al-'Izzayah came under machine-gun fire from occupation posts in Tayr Harfa-al-Rujbayn. The area also witnessed extensive helicopter flights and a display of flares throughout the night.

Informed sources said the occupation forces imposed a curfew and inspected and interrogated citizens in the streets, specifically in the occupied towns of al-'Udaysah, Markaba, and Rabb al-Thalathin. Many houses in those towns were raided.

Lebanon: Prime Minister al-Hariri Leaves for Romania, Ukraine

NC2103093396 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 21 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri left for Romania this morning on an official visit. He will stay there until Sunday [24 March], when he will leave for Ukraine.

**Syria: Radio Defends Lebanese 'Resistance'
Against Israel**

*JN2003172796 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1250 GMT 20 Mar 96*

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Whoever listens to the Israeli threats and justifications for these threats realizes that they turn things and concepts upside down and that they represent a society that is dominated by arrogance to the extent that it has become unable to deal with history reasonably and logically. The Israelis deem the activities of the Lebanese national resistance as nothing more than sabotage actions against them. At the same time, they believe that they have the right to occupy the lands of others on the pretext of defending themselves and security. They believe that they have the right to make threats and deal strikes which they think are appropriate in terms of place and time, and that others do not have the right to resist them.

Whoever resists their occupation and haughtiness is dubbed a terrorist. They believe they have the right to defend their infinite security. If somebody wants to defend his security, land, and dignity, he is considered a terrorist deserving punishment. They demand the peace they want and they have the right to determine its dimensions and depth. Whoever rejects their peace is only a terrorist. This is Israel's logic in dealing with the region and the peace process.

However, the region will remain locked in a state of tension and lack of security and stability as long as the Israelis continue to deal with it through this false logic. The Lebanese are resisting an occupation that has been perched on their territory for many years. They will continue their resistance as long as the occupation remains. Peace will have no place in the region unless it is a just and comprehensive peace based on international legitimacy.

The agreements Israel signed with some Arab parties did not bring about peace. On the contrary, they led to further violence and tension. Ending this tension and violence and entrenching peace cannot be achieved through threats and violence, but rather through implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Syria has underscored that a just and comprehensive peace in the region can be realized only after the removal of occupation and its traces. If Israel really wants peace and security, then it should fully withdraw from all the Arab lands it occupied in its aggression in 1967 and from all the Lebanese lands. It should adhere to the resolutions of international legitimacy, which were the buttress of Madrid peace conference. Israel

should also realize that if peace is not comprehensive, just, and acceptable to all the peoples of the region, it will never exist.

The international community and the cosponsors of the peace process should play their role and exercise their influence to urge Israel to move toward the peace of international legitimacy and go back to the legitimacy of the Madrid conference. This is the only way for ensuring security and stability in the region and the world.

**Syria: Press Criticizes Israeli Approach to Peace,
Security**

*JN2103103396 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 21 Mar 96*

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an editorial titled "The Strength of the Syrian Position Is Based on Its Sincerity and Seriousness," AL-BA'TH discusses Israel's attempt to link the resumption of the Syrian-Israeli talks to certain preconditions related to recent events.

AL-BA'TH notes that Israeli attempts at pressure and extortion have failed more than once on the Syrian-Israeli track. The paper stresses that Israel's recent excuses will not change anything. The paper says: If the Israeli Government was serious about the peace process and its goal to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region, then it would have confessed that the bombings in Israel, the lack of security and stability, and the constant tension in the occupied territories cannot be resolved by security measures, regardless of how harsh they may be and regardless of how hard Israel tries to make other states in the region and outside it shoulder these measures.

AL-BA'TH adds: The internationalization of security, in which the Israeli leaders are trying to involve several states from various continents, is fruitless in a crisis that essentially calls for a political solution, rather than a security solution. It is a problem of occupied territory, usurped rights, and oppressed and persecuted people.

AL-BA'TH stresses that, sooner or later, everyone must realize that agitation, deception, and diversion from the substance of the question cannot last very long. Peace does not mean hollow hopes and wishes and is not a commodity offered for sale during the election season. Peace is also not contingent upon this or that security incident. Peace is an option and a firm belief in this option. Above all, peace means sincere action and a genuine commitment to the foundations on which it is based and the requirements that can ensure it will endure.

AL-BA'TH affirms that the strength of the Syrian position has always been based on its sincerity and the fact that it has the power of legitimacy and is widely respected in international quarters.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Despite everything that has happened, Syria has stuck with the peace process. It considers a just and comprehensive peace a strategic option toward which it works with great determination and without hesitation. It challenges Israel to accept the equation proposed by President Hafiz al-Asad at the start of the peace process: full peace in exchange for full withdrawal.

In a commentary titled "Foolish Logic," AL-THAWRAH says: Israel is still using the logic of the usurper and the occupier who thinks that he is allowed to carry out all sorts of murder and terrorism.

AL-THAWRAH says: According to this logic, Israel is allowed to impose a siege and starve more than 2 million Palestinians. It is allowed to demolish the houses of innocent people and arrest thousands of people on the pretext of security. Israel also has the right to use internationally prohibited fragmentation and shrapnel explosives against peaceful villages in south Lebanon. This foolish logic does not believe that all these acts are terrorism or in defiance of the international community's will and laws.

AL-THAWRAH says: Regrettably, certain people on the international scene accept this Israeli logic and permits Israel to do whatever it wants and strike at whoever it wants on the pretext of protecting its security against the alleged terrorism. Such an attitude does not serve the cause of peace and stability in the region and will only encourage Israel to continue to pursue the policy of aggression and provocation.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that Israel's security cannot be achieved at the expense of the Arabs' security, land, or rights. A just and comprehensive peace can guarantee security for all parties and can bring stability and tranquility to all people of the region.

Syria: Radio Amal's Israeli Attitude Toward Peace Process

JN1903162496 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1236 GMT 19 Mar 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: The cause of peace in the region has retreated to the bottom of Israel's list of priorities. Shim'on Peres once said that peace was more important than elections. However, elections now seem much more important than peace.

In Israel, there are people who consider peace as the antithesis of security. They also consider peace as a direct threat to the security of the Israelis as they recall the recent bombings. These Israelis include senior officials who frankly call for abandoning the peace process and resorting to iron-fist policies, repression, and all forms of terrorism.

These Israelis not only distort facts but they also persist in deception. This is because the agreements Israel signed with the self-rule authority did not achieve peace and will not lead to peace. These agreements ignored the Palestinian people's rights, led by the right to self-determination. They also ignored the bases of the Madrid conference, the resolutions of international legitimacy, and the land-for-peace principle.

This is best proven by the fact that the occupied territories are now facing a tight siege, starvation, and terrorism. Moreover, the Israeli Army is storming homes, demolishing them, and arresting hundreds of people. Hence, where is the alleged peace? Had the occupied territories enjoyed peace and had their residents been in control of their destiny, bombings would not have taken place.

Ignoring the Palestinian people's rights and exposing the Palestinians to permanent trusteeship and to continued monitoring as well as confiscating their sovereignty, security, and future in the name of unfair and unjust agreements are all the reasons for the lack of security and continued tension.

The rulers of Israel thought that circumventing the resolutions of international legitimacy, the bases of the Madrid conference, and the Palestinian people's rights as well as preoccupying the Palestinians with the crumbs of the self-rule authority and replacing a just and comprehensive peace—along with the justice and freedom it entails—with a distorted partial settlement could kill two birds with one stone—a stone which could also end the Palestinian intifadah and keep the occupation.

It is clear that the Israeli officials are racing for extremism, muscle-flexing, show of force, and threats. This race was prompted by the campaign of elections and by the extremists who held the cause of peace responsible for all that has taken place. In fact, peace has nothing to do with these falsehoods.

As part of this race, the Peres government was not only content with imposing a tight military siege on the Palestinian territories, storming villages, townships, camps, and cities, and threatening to go back on the peace process; but it also withdrew its delegation from the Maryland talks with Syria and began to set

conditions to resume them while threatening Lebanon at the same time. This confirms that the Peres government is not serious about making peace and that it is unable to brief the Israeli public on the facts of a just and comprehensive peace. These facts cannot be debated or interpreted; they include full withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from the Golan and southern Lebanon to the 4 June 1967 lines.

Syria cannot be subjected to the dictations or conditions of anyone. Moreover, it will not change its convictions under any threat. Syria now, as it did in the past, distinguishes between legitimate national resistance and acts of terrorism. While condemning terrorism, Syria supports the right of national resistance to confront occupation. This is because a Syrian territory is also occupied, and Israel is procrastinating on withdrawal from the Golan.

The policy of threats and oppression has never led to security but to its antithesis. Only a just and comprehensive peace which restores the land and rights and completely ends the Israeli occupation will achieve security and stability in this region.

Syria: Madrid Conference Called 'Appropriate Alternative' for Peace

JN2103080096 Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English
19 Mar 96 p 5

[Editorial by Fu'ad Mardud]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Despite its bold expectations of reaping diplomatic and military benefits from Sharm al-Shaykh summit only two months before elections, the government of Shim'on Peres in Israel has not come close to any of its goals.

Those expectations were heightened by the announcement of some senior American officials travelling with President Bill Clinton to the Middle East that the "mere fact of the summit and its diverse cast are the effect of bolstering Mr. Peres's sagging political standing as he heads into elections at the end of May, and the burnishing of Mr. Clinton's foreign policy in the face of his own re-election challenge."

But, once the summit was over, Peres returned to face the bare truth: winning is no longer secured.

The election card was always the tool the Israeli leaders have reserved and threatened to use whenever they want to stop or delay the peace talks. Yitzhaq Shamir used it and failed in 1992. Peres used it once again in 1996 and made the whole peace process hostage to inter-Israeli politics. But, regardless of all results, those elections won't clarify real Israeli attitudes to the peace process.

The tangling of internal politics in Israel and the idea of dominance which haunts all of its leaders are the main causes of the serious peace talks' fall-out. Mr. Peres had counted too much upon the al-Shaykh summit to improve his standing domestically and to freeze the peace process under the banner of "fighting terrorism, but astonishingly, the logic of peace has never seemed more compelling than it does today. [no closing quotation marks as published]

Inter-politics couldn't freeze the peace process, though it may delay it a little bit.

But it has been paramount on all levels that comprehensive peace in the Middle East requires comprehensive participation at all times. The crippling process which began in Madrid in 1991 has to be re-invigorated and reactivated. Syria's call to reconvene the Madrid conference came at the right time and has begun to acquire support. The Gulf Cooperation Council's call yesterday to reactivate Madrid was only a start, and Damascus expects more Arab and international support on the way to convince Washington and Moscow — as co-sponsors of the peace process — to respond positively.

Four years after Madrid, it seems certain that without pressure from the United States, it is hard to believe that the peace process would have a real chance of success. Washington is the only side in the world who can force Israel to accept the idea of reconvening the Madrid conference. There is an American heavy responsibility in this affair.

The event of Sharm al-Shaykh summit was one of those which had to fall short of success. It took place in a very odd diplomatic and security climate.

The appropriate alternative should be a more carefully planned event: a new round of the original peace process that started in Madrid.

Afghanistan

Afghanistan: President Says 'Peace Axis' Can Resolve Afghan Crisis

LD2003203796 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The creation of a peace axis (mehwar) in Afghanistan will pave the way for achieving peace. According to a BAKHTAR political commentator, the president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA] said to a group of journalists in a news conference that the government wants to create a peace axis in Afghanistan. The participation of all forces that are interested in ending foreign intervention and in restoring peace in Afghanistan is essential. Therefore, the call of the High State Council asking all the opposition forces to take part in the task of restoring peace is particularly important.

The government representative's contacts with the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] of Golboddin Hekmatyar and the Khalili faction [faction of the Shiite Wahdat-e Eslami party] and the results coming out of these talks indicate that the efforts which were made in this direction are many times more fruitful than any other efforts. Obviously, the creation of such an axis would not involve military alliances of forces against one another. On this point, the esteemed ISA president answered a number of questions. He said: The peace axis will not be for the purpose of military alliances but for the sake of restoring peace in Afghanistan. For this reason, the creation of a peace axis will pave the way for the restoration of peace and it will not question the interests of any group. It will be a strategic move to create peace.

In this connection, what is promising for Afghanistan's people is that the creation of a peace axis is not for the purpose of grasping power, or for the realization of group objectives, but is for the purpose of restoring peace in Afghanistan and to secure a collective objective.

When asked about the future role in the government of those groups with whom talks are under way, the esteemed president said: The future participation of these groups in the government is not the issue. The main objective is the active participation in the restoration of peace in Afghanistan. Therefore, the creation of a peace axis in Afghanistan, as a new idea, could limit the dimension of group and personal considerations as well as tribal and linguistic inclinations to the issue of resolving the current crisis in Afghanistan.

The political solution of the Afghanistan issue can undoubtedly be achieved in this way.

The first steps on this path and the planned objectives are good news for ending the fighting in the country. If those forces taking part in the talks choose the objectives of the peace axis as a guideline for their work, soon a nationwide adherence [to the axis] will come into being. Afghans and political groups can then stop foreign intervention and can restore peace in the country.

Afghanistan: Leaders of Factions To Hold Talks in Jalalabad City

LD2003200396 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 20 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A Radio Message of Freedom correspondent reports from Jalalabad that a political meeting is to be held again in the city. Some of the Jehadi leaders have already arrived in Jalalabad to take part in these talks. Pir Sayd Ahmad Gaylani, leader of the Mahaz-e Meli-e Eslami [National Islamic Front], and Mawlawi Mohammad Yunis Khales, leader of the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic party of Yunis Khales faction], are already in Jalalabad.

Esteemed Brother Hekmatyar, Amir of Hezb-e Eslami of Afghanistan, will soon leave for Nangarhar Province.

It is reported that a delegation led by Professor Abdorrasul Sayyaf, consisting of Sediq Chakari and Dr. Abdorrahman, will soon arrive in Nangarhar. They will take part in a political discussion on the future of Afghanistan.

Afghanistan: Armed Forces Send Rabbani New Year Message

LD2003213896 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministry of Defense's leadership delegation and the mojahedin and personnel of the Islamic Army express their sincere congratulations to you on the occasion of the new year, esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president and supreme commander of the armed forces of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA].

The personnel of the Islamic Army express their support for the ISA leadership's peace-seeking plan, aimed at restoring peace in the country, and for the decisions of the High State Council.

We assure you, great leader, that, in the light of your wise guidance, we have made all preparations for the new year as before, when we emerged victorious on many occasions from the major historical and military

tests and became successful in defeating the conspiracies and savagery of the enemies of Afghanistan's people.

We are ready to defend Afghanistan's political independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty, and to defeat every anti-national movement in any corner of the country under any banner or name.

Afghanistan: Six Taliban Members Killed in Ghazni Province Infighting

LD2003144696 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Infighting has flared up in the surroundings of Ghazni Province between the two commanders of the Taliban group.

According to reports received by BAKHTAR, six men were killed and a number were injured by the belligerent parties.

The fighting broke out between commander Mawlawi Azizollah and Mola Remazan. The cause of this infighting was reported to be differences between the two on disposal of scrap metal.

According to another report, the Taliban group has started to harass the people in Khoshi District, Logar Province. The reason for this is that people have disobeyed the Taliban's orders. The report adds that the people in this district had collectively denounced the actions by Benazir Bhutto's Taliban [words indistinct].

Bangladesh

Bangladesh: Radio Confirms Army Deployment in Dhaka, Chittagong

BK2003134696 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1200 GMT 20 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The government has deployed the Army in Dhaka and Chittagong metropolitan cities to assist the civil administration in restoring normalcy and maintaining law and order. This was stated in a press note released in Dhaka today. The Army will ensure the uninterrupted and safe movement of vehicles on the Chittagong-Dhaka highway and the running of trains. It said that the government has noted the difficulties and miseries being faced by the people in their normal life resulting from the unlawful and violent activities of some quarters over the past few days. It said that these activities have disrupted the communication system, normal business operations, the import-export trade, and production in industries and factories, thereby causing serious damage to the country's economy.

The press note added that creating obstructions to the transportation of essential commodities from various

places of the country is bringing misery to the people. Students' futures are being ruined as educational institutions are closed due to the destructive activities, causing concern to guardians. It said that the poor people, especially the daily wage earners, have been deprived of their livelihood and made to face extreme misery and grief. It said that adequate steps have been taken to help the people at every level to ensure their normal life.

Bangladesh: Life Becoming 'Normal' in Chittagong After Army Deployment

BK2103033996 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 20 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Life began returning to normal due to the Army deployment in various strategic places in Chittagong. More people are being seen in the streets and markets, and most shops are open. The movement of ships in Chittagong port continued today. A release said that two ships carrying crude oil anchored at the port, while another left the port today. Fuel oil was unloaded from the ships. Meanwhile, at Mongla port, [words indistinct] and port labor group worked normally, loading and unloading goods during the first shift. Almost 10,000 metric tonnes of commodities were loaded and unloaded from the ships yesterday. The release added that the passenger ferry service at Sadar Ghat terminal was normal today.

Bangladesh: New Diplomatic Mission Opened in Tashkent

BK2003164996 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 20 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Bangladesh has opened a new diplomatic mission in the Uzbek capital of Tashkent, which began operation on 13 March. S.K. Sharjil Hasan [name as transliterated] has taken over as ambassador.

India

India: Satellite Launch Vehicle-D3 Launched; Voyage 'Smooth'

BK2103072896 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0630 GMT 21 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Indian space scientists today achieved yet another stupendous success by launching the third development Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV-D3.

The SHAR [Sriharikota Satellite Launching Range] range in Sriharikota which roared with earth-shaking noise was the center of launch activities as the 44-meter high and the 283-ton launch vehicle lifted off at about 1024 [0454 GMT] this morning. Our correspondent

Sheshachandrika reports that the 17 minutes launch operation was of a textbook precision.

The ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization] chairman, Dr. K. Kasturirangan, led the team of ISRO scientists at the mission control center at Sriharikota. The voyage of the country's prestigious PSLV-D3 was smooth, perfectly coordinated, and precise to the minutest parts of the seconds. The Indian Remote Sensing Satellite, IRS B-3, containing four payloads was put into 817 kilometer polar sunsynchronous orbit in about 18 minutes after the lift off. The launching operation was also witnessed by eminent space scientists including Professor Satish Dhawan and Professor U.R. Rao. Complimenting the space scientists, the ISRO chairman, Dr. K. Kasturirangan, described today's launch program as a significant milestone in the application of space for the welfare of mankind.

India: APHC Rejects Plans for Elections in Occupied Kashmir

BK2003151196 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 20 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The All Parties Hurriyat Conference [APHC] has rejected Indian Election Commission's schedule to hold elections in occupied Kashmir. Chairman of APHC Mir Waiz Umar Farooq said the whole Kashmiri nation has already rejected the Indian election plan. He said the Kashmir problem can only be resolved through tripartite talks between India, Pakistan, and the Kashmiri representatives.

In occupied Kashmir, complete strike will be observed tomorrow against Indian Election Commission's schedule also providing for holding elections for parliamentary seats in Jammu and Kashmir in May. The strike would coincide with the arrival of the Indian negotiating team in Srinagar tomorrow on a three-day visit to further pursue the talks Indian authorities have had in New Delhi with four renegade Kashmiris. These talks have already been dismissed by political and mujahideen circles as meaningless, which were aimed at misleading world opinion.

Meanwhile, serious anti-India demonstrations were held in Islamabad and Pulwama areas against brutal operations by Indian troops. The demonstrations in Anantnag-Islamabad District were triggered by the killing in custody of an innocent person. Six more persons were killed by Indian troops in Pulwama, Srinagar, Hindwara, and Kishtwar. Reports say six Indian soldiers were killed or injured in land mine explosions planted by mujahideen in Kokarnag. Mujahideen also attacked military targets at various localities of Srinagar, inflicting considerable casualties on the troops.

India: Further Talks Urged To Solve Issues With Bangladesh

BK2103045496 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0200 GMT 21 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A spokesman of All India Congress Committee has said Bangladesh and India should continue the process of negotiation to find solution to all outstanding issues between the two countries.

In an exclusive interview with BSS in New Delhi yesterday, the spokesman, V.N. Gadgil, said that there is no problems, including sharing of water resources, which cannot be solved through discussions.

Referring to the existing trade imbalance between the two countries, he said India has to increase its imports from Bangladesh to reduce the gap.

India: Akali Dal Forges Electoral Alliance in Punjab

BK2103050196 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 21 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Akali Dal-Badal and the Bahujan Samaj Party [BSP] have entered into an electoral alliance for 13 parliamentary seats in Punjab.

Announcing this at a press conference in Ludhiana yesterday, the Akali Dal political affairs committee member, Mr. Sewa Singh Sukhwan, and the BSP general secretary, Mr. Avtar Singh Karin, said that BSP would contest four Lok Sabha seats and the remaining nine seats would be at the disposal of Akali Dal.

India: CBI Files Charges Against 13 Persons in Arms-Dropping Case

BK2103033796 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 20 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] charge-sheeted 13 persons in connection with the Puruliya arms-dropping case at the chief metropolitan magistrate's court in Calcutta today. They include six air crew and six members of the Anand Marg. None of the Anand Margis could be apprehended. They are suspected to be out of the country. The other accused, B. Rameshan Bhanu — a Delhi-based associate of the main suspect — is also absconding. The suspects have been charge-sheeted under various sections of the Indian Penal Code. The CBI has declared a reward of 1 lakh rupees for each of the absconders.

Iran

Iran: Ayatollah Khamene'i Addresses Nation on New Year

LD2003135196 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0805 GMT 20 Mar 96

[Address by Ayatollah 'Ali Hoseyni Khamene'i on the occasion of Nowruz, the new year; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Khamene'i] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. [passage omitted] I want to congratulate the dear Iranian people, Iranians who live in other parts of the world, and the Persian-speaking peoples of the world — such as the peoples of Afghanistan and Tajikistan — as well as other peoples who celebrate Nowruz on this auspicious occasion. [passage omitted]

The past year was one of hard work and, thanks be to God, a productive one. The government and officials of the country, as well as the masses of the people, undertook great tasks. The government and the Majles started the second [five-year] plan. They worked hard. Legislators passed laws, and executive officials carried out their duties to the best of their abilities in the fields of development, progress, construction, and infrastructural work.

A glance at the work of the judicial branch, too, shows they carried out a lot of work during the past year which gave a lot of hope to the people. They fought against corruption and against corrupt individuals, those who had misused and plundered public funds. They were put on trial and the traitors got what they deserved. We hope the judicial branch will carry on with the good work. [passage omitted]

The people took part extensively in the recent elections, at a time when the enemy's propaganda machine was trying to portray a dark image of the elections to make them leave the scene. Thanks be to God, a greater percentage of people took part in this election than previous ones. People were more noticeably present in this election than in recent ones, and I have the statistics in mind. Of course, we still have the second round of the elections. We hope people will carry this out in the best possible manner.

Our dear people know the fate of the country is in their hands, that it depends on their resolve, determination, and faith. Therefore, everybody should be determined to make an effort, to work hard, to be present on the scene, to make decisions seriously for the future. If the people are present on the scene, if they are determined, if they call for it, the officials will be encouraged and work harder and better.

To give you an idea about important tasks this year and the following years, I will address two or three matters on the joint efforts of the people and the government. I recommend to everybody to consider the country's financial resources. [passage omitted]

My other recommendation for the coming year, and for all times, is about constructive work. Many people work, but not constructively. Some do destructive work. Everybody should try to do constructive work. Constructive work is a struggle against the enemy. [passage omitted] The enemy does not want this country to be run well and the people's affairs to be managed smoothly. The enemy wants to create problems. Through correct management, through constructive work, through correct and logical work, one should fight the enemy. [passage omitted]

I have another important recommendation, with particular emphasis on government officials and those who help them, that is to safeguard the rights of the people. There are many people who have easily-earned wealth and do not pay tax; there are many people who use public funds for their own personal use, undeservedly. [passage omitted] Of course, the middle classes pay tax. Those who do not possess such wealth pay tax more willingly and easily. [passage omitted]

Last year I noted something. That is, our youths have serious and active presence in areas that are not palatable to our enemies at all. For example, in spiritual issues, since the enemy wants our people, especially our youths, to be divorced from spiritual issues. [passage omitted]

Another is [youths'] attention to knowledge, the improvement of knowledge, the improvement of students' affairs, and the increase in the number of students in our country. This is not palatable to our enemies at all when they see how much knowledge is sought in the country and that the future of the country is thus guaranteed.

Even in scientific competitions our youths made good progress, all of which is considered as the struggle against arrogance and helps the future of the country.

Also in sports our youths have made great efforts and have done good work, which our enemies do not like.

Therefore, last year we saw that, fortunately, our youths were present in all the areas in our country which are not palatable to the enemy and in which they do not like the presence of the people, especially youngsters. [passage omitted]

The elections are very important. Within the next few weeks we are going to have elections; in fact, one can say half of the elections are still to be held. All the

criteria that applied to the first round of the elections apply to this coming round; in fact the coming round may even be more important. The people should take part in the elections, as they have done before. They should choose suitable candidates. Of course, the best people to choose are those that one trusts. Make sure the people who go to the Islamic Consultative Majles are trustworthy and they are not the sort of people who deviate or get caught in a web of corruption. Make sure they are people who work for the people, for Islam, the Muslims, for the welfare of the nation, for pushing forward the aims of the revolution, and for extending and deepening revolutionary values. Make sure they are not influenced by the enemy. Send the forces of the revolution to the Islamic Consultative Majles and God willing, the Majles will become whole. [passage omitted]

Iran: President Rafsanjani Gives New Year's Address

LD2003143196 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0805 GMT 20 Mar 96

[Address by Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the occasion of Nowruz, the new year; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Allow me to offer my congratulations to our great people on this auspicious and happy occasion. We hope the New Year will have many successes and divine blessings for us and for all the Islamic ummah. [passage omitted]

Thanks be to God, today the Islamic Republic of Iran is graced in all spheres by divine blessings. It has made great strides in various scenes. In the field of culture, our country is one of the healthiest countries of the world ethically. [passage omitted]

Politically, our people can witness the stability of the system as well as the people's unity. On the world level, the disgraceful defeat of America in its confrontation of the Islamic revolution is a very good example. [passage omitted]

From an economic viewpoint, thanks be to God, the foundations of our economy are very strong. This year we presented to the Majles Iran's biggest budget ever, without deficit, and it was approved by the Majles. The budget allocation was 137 trillion rials and we are really proud of it.

From the foreign exchange point of view, we have reached a trade surplus of around \$6 billion, which can be considered as a great bastion for continuous growth. The situation has never been this good.

This is in the light of cutting foreign exchange expenditures, substituting them with domestically produced goods, and relying on non-oil exports.

The majority of infrastructural tasks have reached a favorable point. In the light of proper implementation of the first plan you can see that sectors such as oil, water, gas, power, petrochemical, metal industries, mines, communication, transport, urban services, heavy and consumer industries, agriculture, fishery and animal husbandry enjoy a moderate and acceptable growth and are advancing.

I am confident that with our country's present situation, we are able to picture a very clear situation for the next year and we have a bright future ahead.

Firstly, the conspicuous and admirable presence of the people in the elections was a show of national solidarity in the face of foreign political pressure. And this was proved to all the world with the presence of the foreign media. God willing, with the formation of a totally popular Majles and one in the service of the aspirations of the Islamic Revolution, we will enjoy strong political support.

In its current programs, in accordance with the second plan, of which one year has successfully passed, the government is ready to take new and important measures for next year. I want to mention a few points of them:

To continue the same policies in terms of regulation and adjustment of the market which relies on abundance of goods needed by the people, and relies on control and punishment on cases where we have restrictions.

To continue the reconstruction policies in view of our huge budget. Around 42 percent of this budget will be used for reconstruction.

To continue cultural and ideological programs and to remove poverty with paying special attention to villages and remote, border, and tribal areas. And to continue to complete the reconstruction work of war-stricken areas.

To continue the policy of strengthening agriculture through continuing to control seasonal waters with many dams; God willing, we will be witnessing inauguration of many dams next year. [passage omitted]

To follow up the issue of removing poverty, which was raised last year and Planning [and Budget] Organization is engaged in drafting a comprehensive program for it. The emphasis has been laid to provide employment, amend the wages of wage earners, enhance the level of production, establish social insurance facilities for all, emphasize the implementation of medical insurance

program, and to provide assistance to those, who for whatever reason, will not be able to use these spheres to run their lives.

Last year, we attached greater importance to the policy of increasing the non-oil exports. The foundation of becoming less dependent on the foreign currency earning from oil exports was in fact laid in previous years. The policy will continue with greater expansion this year. This will be done by introducing new products and by producing more to replace the imports, as well as exporting the surplus products. [passage omitted]

In our universities greater emphasis will be put on higher degree courses to train the specialists needed to upgrade higher degree education in the country. We will also rely on research as a basis for development, dynamism, and civilization.

We hope to continue the policy of administrative reforms and other measures that will facilitate the people's daily life. We hope to be able to perform all these tasks well.

At this point I would like to say that in this year our people will witness fruition of many major projects in the sectors of water management, agriculture, industry, mining and primary industries. These are some of the fruits of the first and second five-year economic development plans.

In our foreign policy, we will remain committed to political independence, support for the world deprived and the oppressed and struggle against blasphemy. At the same time, we will cooperate whole-heartedly with all the countries which are prepared to cooperate with the Islamic Republic on equal terms.

I beseech God to grant us more success and may we all win divine succor. I am wishing our noble people prosperity in this world and after life. May God's peace and mercy be upon you all.

Iran: Majles Deputy Says JRM To 'Dominate' Fifth Convocation

LD2103112096 Tehran IRAN NEWS in English
14 Mar 96 p 1

[Article by unidentified political commentator: "JRM to Dominate Fifth Majles"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tehran — More results have been announced for the Tehran Constituency as Majles Deputy Javad Larijani predicts that the JRM [Jame-e Rouhaniat-e-Mobarez] will receive majority seats in the fifth term.

In an interview with IRAN NEWS, Larijani said: I believe the JRM will get more seats in the next term as compared to the present term.

Of the G-6 (Servants of Construction), he said that it is a comparatively small group that has "appeared on the political scene late compared to other factions." But Larijani believes the G-6 will be able to hold four to five seats in the next Majles.

He also predicted that the G-6 will emerge as a fully fledged political party in the future with a specific plan for the country.

As a political faction, the G-6 would not be able to have effective impact in the next Majles, he said, but it will have its own role to play. Larijani said the G-6 leans to the left in its thinking.

Compared to previous Majles elections, the percentage of votes cast in the March 8 pollings reportedly increased.

But interestingly, the ratio in major cities remained lower.

For example, in the Tehran Constituency even if the current vote count touches on 2.2 million it would mean that just 50 to 60 per cent of the population went to the polling booths.

With the entrance of the G-6 onto the election scene, it was expected that the faction of senior executive officials and Jame-e Rouhaniat-e Mobarez would draw more people to the polling booths. But it did not happen.

As in the past, we can expect the number of voters in next month's second round of elections to be less.

Another aspect which draws the attention of observers is that voters did not cast their votes to one particular list issued by G-6, JRM, Islamic Revolution Mujahedin Organization of Iran (IRMOI) or the Association for Defending the Values of the Islamic Revolution (ADVIR).

This is the reason for the wider gap between the number of voters who stood first and last in the list issued by election authorities.

Ms. Faezeh Hashemi's stunning victory is welcomed by observers in Tehran. They believe her success and that of other female candidates reflects the wishes of Tehran residents that women play a larger role in the country's affairs.

Ms. Hashemi has been active in sport and social activities which helped her attract the voters attention.

But the fact remains that the G-6 spent huge amounts of money on election propaganda but could not attract the expected number of votes.

The reason for the overwhelming victory of G-6 backed Ms. Hashemi is also said to be the fact that she is a daughter of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani who commands a great respect in the nation.

According to the statistics released by election authorities, Ms. Hashemi is on top of the G-6 list while the second winner is 12th in line.

Observers believe that the G-6 presented a list of weak contenders. They could have succeeded if they had fielded the names of more famous and experienced candidates.

True, they also began their election campaign late compared to their rivals, some believe.

It is surprising to note that the predictions of some print media were proven wrong. Some hoped that G-6 candidate former Interior Minister Abdollah Nuri would be able to snatch a large number of votes while he is standing 16th in the list of winners.

The JRM chanted a hollow slogan when they said some wanted to wipe out clerics from the political scene. The result shows that the ulama succeeded in getting seats in the Majles.

Contrary to previous terms of the Majles, now more independent candidates will be sitting when it is inaugurated in May.

The independent candidates include Dr. Hasan Ghafari-Fard and Dr. Gholamali Afrooz. Despite the fact that they fought the election as independent candidates, they were allied with the JRM. They have to face the second round and it is just possible that they may be able to get room on the JRM list.

One surprise is a crushing defeat by Sa'id Raja'i Khorasani who could not get even the required number of votes to run in the second round.

Observers believe that leftists, G-6 and IRMOI, would enter into an alliance for the second round. [passage omitted]

Iran: MIRO Officials on Election, Ties With Groups
 NC2103103496 Tehran SALAM in Persian
 10 Mar 96 p 9

[First part of a two-part report on a question-answer session attended by officials of the Mojahedin of the Islamic Revolution Organization, MIRO; place and date not given; this installment involves Behzad Nabavi and Mohammad Salamati; the questioners are not identified]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Question] How do you assess the outcome of the elections? Your participation would appear to legitimize the rightist faction.

[Nabavi] If the Traditional Right gains a majority of Majles seats we will not say the Majles is illegitimate. This is not our intention. This is not the stance that all those following the imam's line adopted after the fourth term elections, when, despite 80 of our candidates being rejected, we accepted the result. We consider the system to come from us and if we have anything to say or any criticism to make we will do it legally within the system.

[Question] Why are you weakening coordination among the faction following the imam's line?

[Nabavi] We hold coordination sessions once a week with the other groups following the imam's line. No one forced our organization to submit a candidate. We all agree on our assessments of the existing atmosphere. Some groups consider it expedient to submit candidates, while some do not. We are not working in the opposite direction of the other groups that follow the imam's line nor do these groups think we are.

[Question] Who comprises the New Left, which you refer to in your assessments?

[Nabavi] There is no need to name names. That we have done so in one case and referred to one newspaper as the organ of the Traditional Right is because they themselves did so.

[Question] Apart from these four factions—the Modern Right, the Traditional Right, the Islamic Left, and the New Left—do you attach any importance to the other groups, such as the Freedom Movement, and take them into account in your assessments?

[Nabavi] This depends on the impact the various groups have on the fate of the revolution and the system. At one time all our efforts concentrated on analyzing the mon-afeqin [hypocrites—pejorative term for the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization], because we considered them and their deviant way of thought to have an impact. Today they are no longer effective. The same applies to the Freedom Movement. This is not an insult to anyone. But we should accept that they no longer affect the revolution.

[Question] Once you said there was nothing wrong with the fourth term elections. But do these remarks not contradict your other remarks?

[Nabavi] My own credentials were rejected during the fourth term elections. Either there was a problem with the elections or I am not competent. No violations were committed on the day of the elections. But this does not mean an atmosphere was not prepared against our faction, leading to the rejection of 80 of our candidates. The Voice and Vision [of the Islamic Republic of Iran] constantly disseminated propaganda and encouraged

this atmosphere both at home and abroad. But these two should be separate.

[Question] Why do you have a bone to pick with the Traditional Right?

[Nabavi] We do not have a bone to pick with them. I have a very close friend in this faction. We always participate in debates together, such that they know us as the "debating couple." But I do not accept his and his associates' views. It is wrong to consider disagreement with opinions and views as hostility. We should observe a limit in confronting views and opinions. Not accepting the views of some people does not mean disrespect for them.

[Question] What is your view of the separation of religion from politics?

[Nabavi] We have reacted to this and our stances have been clarified in 'ASR-E MA. In our view, religion is an ideological issue.

[Question] What is your criterion for freedom?

[Nabavi] We interpret freedom within the Constitution. We do not accept licentiousness stemming from liberalist freedom.

[Question] Do you consider the government of Engineer Hoseyn Musavi to have been a successful government?

[Nabavi] I offered criticism as a member of his cabinet. But that government was more successful than the current government and the current conditions. Of course there is no meaning in such comparisons.

[Question] Do you envisage sufficient protection in the form of sanctions for the candidates participating in the elections?

[Nabavi] We do not envisage this, even for ourselves, let alone for other candidates.

[Question] Are there any hopes for the presence of your candidates in the Majles?

[Nabavi] I consider the probability to be low, because this is a very difficult task. But we will try.

[Question] Do you consider the statement by the Officials [of Reconstruction] to be illegal?

[Nabavi] We welcome it and do not consider it illegal. Some words and threats, such as impeachment, are heard to scare them. Of course we do not accept the group's views, because they fully endorse the government's policies; we criticize the government's economic and foreign policies.

[Question] Some people believe that the roots of the current confrontation can be found in political groups

that you yourselves started in the initial years after the revolution and that you removed others, for example Engineer Bazargan, from the scene. What is your view?

[Nabavi] We never intended to remove people like Engineer Bazargan from the scene. He and others tied their fate with those who intended to overthrow the system. People who make such remarks are trying to feign oppression. Anyone who accepts the Constitution and the system should be active. Of course some current dogmatic and unfavorable approaches make some people think that they were right and that they were the oppressed. In the same way that dogmatism has failed to come up with any answers on the issue of violating the rules of Islamic attire, it is also wrong when it comes to politics. It will have no positive results.

[Question] What is your opinion of foreign debts?

[Salamati] It is good to use foreign monetary resources. But the debts that have been incurred have been used for current expenditure. The First Plan involved no investment by foreign companies, the Second Plan does. This goes against the Constitution.

[Question] What is your opinion of Ansar-e Hezbollah?

[Salamati] Ansar-e Hezbollah can be assessed from two aspects. We consider the members of Ansar-e Hezbollah to be among our hezbollahi and sympathizing brothers. But the Ansar-e Hezbollah group is not under the control of the main body and the feeling is that it is guided from elsewhere, which should not be so. The brothers in Ansar-e Hezbollah should take care that their good intentions are not abused or exploited.

[Question] If the leftist faction wins the majority of the seats in the Majles, will a dichotomy arise between the government and the Majles?

[Salamati] It is good to have two different channels for electing the members of these two branches. We believe the Majles should not be controlled by the president. It would be better if the government and the Majles were independent. If the leftist minority gains seats in the Majles it will not fight with the president, but will state its views. It is a blessing for the Majles not to be controlled by the government.

[Question] What is your opinion of deviating from the policy of economic adjustment?

[Salamati] This is not harmful, but is to our benefit.

[Question] Your defeat in the elections is definite. Why do you not seek involvement in serious political activities?

[Salamati] Although we have only a slim chance, we will not give up our political activities. We are not

attached to the bazaar in the way the Traditional Right is so that we might have the middlemen help us. The financial situation of the groups following the imam's line is as you see. They have no financial resources and were weakened by the fourth term elections. But this does not mean we should abandon our political activities.

[Question] Why do you not use the Freedom Movement to pressure the rule?

[Salamati] Contrary to the way the Freedom Movement thinks, we do not believe in contacting foreign circles and using international pressure levers. We even rejected an interview with BBC radio because the BBC does not sympathize with our nation. Our problems are internal and have nothing to do with them.

[Question] One criticism against you is that you criticize without offering any practical plans.

[Salamati] We do not just criticize, we do submit plans. No other group has. We say that policies are not correct for this or that reason and we give reasons why policies should be replaced.

One thing our organization is proud of is that it has acted correctly in line with a sound outlook.

[Question] Why does the House of Workers support the Modern Right (the Officials of Reconstruction)?

[Salamati] The House of Workers was considered to be an ally of the Traditional Left. But now they believe that there is no meaning in classifying people as rightist or leftist. We are negotiating with them to see if we can succeed.

[Question] Will your organization form an alliance with the other leftist groups?

[Salamati] We have spoken with some groups and have reached agreements. Some have not yet posted their final views to us, but are waiting to see when the conditions will be favorable to form an alliance with some groups, like the Tehran Militant Clerics, who will not be proposing any candidates.

[Question] Why is the wife of the martyr Raja'i not on your list?

[Salamati] We have spoken to her often. But she has expressed no interest in being included on our list. We insisted that she accept but she did not.

Iran: Further on MIRO Officials' Views on Election, Groups

NC2103113596 Tehran SALAM in Persian
12 Mar 96 p 9

[Second and last part of a question-answer session with officials of the Mojahedin of the Islamic Revolution Organization, MIRO; place and date not given—this part features Mohsen Armin and Mohammad Salamati; the questioners are not identified]

[FBIS Translated Test] [Question] Ruling someone to be ineligible is an injustice that robs an individual of the right to gain the votes of the public.

[Armin] This is not what we believe. Ruling someone to be ineligible is neither ugly nor despotism. In each country, rejecting eligibility is an issue and there are regulations on it. The issue is not that of an authority rejecting eligibility. The issue is discerning eligibility on the basis of clear and precise laws and regulations. Now eligibility is factional and the regulations are general and vague. While forces that are aligned with the left have been omitted, candidates of the Traditional Right have easily passed through the net. In some towns all the leftist faction's candidates have been rejected. Our protest is against the process arising from shortsightedness. Political and party rivalries should be institutionalized so that this problem is solved.

[Question] Why the decline in political activity in the universities?

[Armin] The universities are not separate from the general atmosphere that rules society. If society has no institutionalized form of political activity the university will be pushed in the same direction. The activities of the parties and party movements should be encouraged so that their impact will also be felt in the universities.

[Question] What do you think about the past performance of the MIRO?

[Armin] The brothers who are now members of this organization and who were activists in the old organization accept the stances the organization had until 1360 [1981]. But when differences emerged inside the organization they departed because of disagreements. So we accept the organization's stances until 1360.

[Question] Could you change the method of your struggle?

[Armin] What does change in the method of struggle mean? We accept that each political force should adopt a tactic and say what it has to say according to the existing conditions.

As for letting go of political activity, turning to public services, becoming extremist, or resorting to violence, such things are out of the question. We believe we have a part to play in the system and our criticism also stems from our good intentions.

[Question] Do you oppose sanctioned supervision? If the interior minister is not from the rightist faction, will you retain the same opinion?

[Armin] The main problem is the existence of the executive committees. Incidentally, the committees comprise the popular side of the issue and the reliable individuals are the people. It is the Council of Guardians that says its supervision was sanctioned from the start. In the third term the Interior Ministry, supported by his eminence the imam, may his soul be sanctified, prevented this interpretation from being offered. In the fourth term the Council of Guardians acted as if it were sanctioned—to an extent. But in the fifth term the Interior Ministry and the Council of Guardians joined hands.

[Question] What is your opinion of Iranian-U.S. relations?

[Salamati] We do not believe in relations with America. America is trying to destroy our system. Relations with America are not beneficial, they are detrimental. These relations threaten our independence and are tantamount to suicide.

[Question] Why did the executive committees reject your (Armin's) eligibility?

[Armin] My eligibility was approved during the past term. I think that what has made a difference is the publication of 'ASR-E MA. We have gained no new monies on the past term and have not been summoned by any court on any charges.

[Question] What are your and the Traditional Right's economic patterns?

[Armin] We published our economic pattern in 'ASR-E MA for the public's information. The Traditional Right's economic pattern is not very harmonious. If they had a harmonious economic program, they would not have been chopping and changing so much. They have reached this point because of their many mistakes. They do not have an economic pattern or program.

[Question] Were do you think Hashemi-Rafsanjani stands between the Modern Right and the Traditional Right?

[Armin] The Officials [of Reconstruction] felt they were not in harmony with the majority in the Majles. Structural differences have also separated their accounts. The Traditional Right did not believe in the slogan "support for Hashemi" and its devotion to the supreme

jurisconsult was proven during the era of the late imam, may his soul be sanctified. Hashemi is a shrewd politician and has understood that the Traditional Right is trying to gain power.

[Question] Would it not have been better for you to have named the New Left the Extreme Right in your analyses?

[Armin] Our divisions are not based on economic or political interests. Amid all these factions, we see people from different social strata. The New Left does not have a specific economic outlook and does not enjoy uniformity in other fields. Of course all the political groups in society are changing and ranks are gradually becoming clearer.

Iran: SALAM Answers Questions on People's Participation

NC2103121096 Tehran SALAM in Persian
12 Mar 96 p 3

[From the "Hello SALAM" column]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Unidentified caller] Do you think that everything was just fine when you were in power? Now that you are no longer in charge, you are silent and are talking about obeying the law, and instead of guiding the people toward making changes, you are silently sitting back. Unfortunately, you too speak only when something is to your benefit.

[SALAM] We thank God almighty for being so far-sighted as to publish the views of our dear readers, even if these views are against us; but our request from our readers is that whenever they state their views — be it against us, or against or in favor of others — to accompany these views with facts so that our readers will be able to make better use of these facts and also so that the person who has expressed such views will not be accused of being illogical.

[Unidentified caller] Please explain what charges were brought against the SALAM newspaper.

[SALAM] The special prosecutor of the clerical court stated this in an interview. This interview was published in the morning and evening newspapers of Thursday 17 Esfand [7 March]. SALAM also published this report and brief comments on it on Saturday 19 Esfand [9 March]. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified caller] At one time, you advised your readers to participate in the elections at a time when restrictions have caused some religious and national groups to withdraw from the elections. The deputies of the fourth term have repeatedly remained silent in front of astronomical thefts in the banks and institutions and in front of

assaults by illegal groups on funerals, conferences, publications, and newspapers. These are the same deputies who gained seats in the Majles because of your repeated insistence on the need for participation, and they could have impeached the government for at least one of the injustices that has been perpetrated against the nation's rights.

If you do not have the courage to confront these injustices, let the nation express its protests against all these by not participating in the elections.

[SALAM] Initial reports show that the number of people participating in the elections has been satisfactory; but this does not mean that this figure has been reached because the society feels so fortunate. The only way to correct matters is through as extensive a participation as possible. Efforts should be made to make this participation more active. In other words, the formation of creditable political parties and groups that have clear platforms and programs should start so that public awareness will be increased. [passage omitted]

Iran: Daily on Differences Between U.S., Europe Over Iran

LD2103114296 *Tehran IRAN NEWS in English*
16 Mar 96 p 2

[Editorial article: "Justice Alone Will Bring Peace, Not 100 Million Dollars"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Despite the fact that Iran time and again has declared that it never was, is, or will be a supporter of any form of terrorism, U.S. President Bill Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres sang the same old, outdated chorus which portrays Tehran as an advocate of terrorism.

On the sidelines of the Sharm el-Shaykh summit on Wednesday [13 March] Clinton met with British Prime Minister John Major, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and French President Jacques Chirac.

Wearing a black yarmulke, Clinton appeared on CNN and in a live press conference, claimed that the European attitude to Iran was changing.

The French President did not waste time and hit back at Clinton saying 'Europe favours and prefers dialogue with Tehran'.

Such a fabricated statement and sheer lie once more verifies that not Iran, but Clinton himself is a rogue.

In the meantime, President Chirac's refusal to compromise with Clinton's proposal, once more proved that Europe doesn't give a damn what any U.S. president says during his election year.

On Wednesday and Thursday, both Clinton and Peres left no stone unturned in sending their message to world public opinion that "Tehran is a capital of terror." They reiterated their 'cheap words' despite the fact that the final communique of the summit did not single out any one country by name.

After the summit, the statements of both Peres and Clinton also verify that all their efforts to name Iran in the final communique in the Egyptian resort were disputed by the European leaders.

On the eve of the summit, German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel visited Israel where the officials in the Occupied Territories tried their best to have Germany accuse Iran of terrorist activities.

The Zionist regime failed in its efforts and the German official also refused to name Iran as perpetrator of any form of terrorist activity.

Iran's stand is crystal clear. It still condemns all forms of terrorism. It does not fund or encourage terrorism in any part of the globe.

It is also Iran's firm and declared policy to draw a clear line between terrorism and the struggle against occupation. If this line is missing then 100 million or even one billion dollars will go to waste and no-one should expect any concrete result.

The Zionist regime follows a policy of closures, sealings, demolitions and expulsions in the Palestinian Occupied Territories, without taking the bitter fact into consideration that the people who have been made homeless will never sit quiet as long as they are refugees.

The Iraqi government and people are being punished just because Baghdad did not comply with the UN resolution. Neither President Clinton nor his predecessors ever mentioned UN Resolutions Number 242, 338 and 425 which are being kept by Israel in cold storage. No. Never.

Neither the summit nor the sophisticated spying equipment will be able to bring peace to the Middle East. Justice alone can do this. It should be noted, as we said earlier, that Iran will be more than happy to extend its sincere and active cooperation for peace in the Middle East or elsewhere if this is based on fairness and justice.

We wish that the American leader and others in that country would realise this fact, instead of appeasing 12 million Jews for the sake of their votes.

**Iran: Commentator on Bonds Between Iran,
'Separated Part of Iran'**

NC2103121996 *Tehran ABRAR in Persian*
10 Mar 96 p 12

[Commentary by Piruz Dadkhah: "Reviving the Bonds
Between the Two Sides of the Aras"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The reunification of Iran during Aqa Mohammad Khan Qajar's era, accompanied by much blood and fire, also saw the economic and political growth of Europe, Russia, which neighbored Iran in the Caucasus and in Central Asia, entertained thoughts of advancing south, gaining access to warm-water ports, and, as a result, gaining access to India. This caused a series of wars between Russia and Iran. In the last years of Aqa Mohammad Khan's life, Tehran scored some successes. But during the era of his nephew, Fath 'Ali Shah, Iran was defeated. The outcome of this defeat was the Golestan and Turkmenchay peace pacts. The failure of the Qajar king in foiling efforts by Crown Prince 'Abbas Mirza and his agent, Farahani, led to the loss of extensive territory in the Caucasus and in Iranian Azerbaijan.

These two pacts were a black spot on the record of the Qajar kings. They marked the beginning of colonialist domination in Iran and the loss of parts of the country in Central Asia, Afghanistan, and Baluchestan. Some 170 years have passed since then, years of separation between the people on both sides of the imposed border of the Aras River. The northern half of Aras was cut off from Iran, but relations between Iranians on the other side and those on the land of their ancestors were not severed. And when the Russians' strength began to weaken, thousands of people from the area known as the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan crossed the barbed wire and other obstacles on the Aras to enter Iran.

Not many years have passed since then. These incidents were a knell for all those who did not want to accept Iran's grandeur and were inspired by foreigners to propagate pan-Turkism on the other side of the Aras. After a coup and their coming to power, these people rapidly tried to prevent the consolidation of bonds between both sides of the Aras. Abulfaz Elchibey's People's Front adopted hostile stances against Iran and supported ad hoc groups entertaining thoughts of annexing southern Azerbaijan to northern Azerbaijan. But this rule and the support it got from some foreign countries did not last long.

The failure of the People's Front to solve the economic problems in Azerbaijan and its repeated defeats by the Armenians in the Karabakh war, coupled with its anti-Iranian policy—at a time when Iranian humanitarian aid

was being sent to Azerbaijan—caused public rage. Thus, the rule of the People's Front in Baku was brief. Then things fell into the hands of Heydar Aliyev, who was very proud of extensive relations with Iran during his rule in Nakhichevan. It was this feeling of pride that acted as an asset and helped him strengthen his hold on Baku. The people there knew that Iran's friendship and support had saved Nakhichevan from the clutches of occupation, famine, and cold. Thus it was not without cause that during the overthrow of the People's Front the Turkish press spoke about the victory of Tehran's diplomacy in Baku.

But the thirst for power and vulnerability in the face of foreign powers, especially America, did the trick and Aliyev, who had power in his hands, gradually chose tension in relations with Iran instead of expanding ties. Support for ad hoc groups, placing official and state tribunes, particularly Baku Radio, at the disposal of these groups, canceling the oil agreement, and requesting NATO's military presence were among the steps that Aliyev and his entourage took.

But these steps have failed to sever the bonds between the people in Azerbaijan and Iran. These bonds, which have continued with repeated requests by the people in Azerbaijan to be annexed to Iran, have strengthened, causing concern among the pan-Turkists and the Baku government.

So we should express hope that the wish of the people in the separated part of Iran will be fulfilled and that they will once more live together with their compatriots under one flag.

**Iran: Expansion of Ties Between Ankara, Tel Aviv
Viewed**

LD2103110096 *Tehran IRAN NEWS in English*
14 Mar 96 p 15

[Article by Sohelia Mohammadi "Analysis: Expansion
of Ties Between Ankara and Tel Aviv"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Turkey's President Suleyman Demirel commenced his visit of Occupied Palestine on Monday, March 11. This is the first visit by a Turkish president to Occupied Palestine. Demirel's visit to Tel Aviv had been planned for November last, but it was postponed as a result of the assassination of Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

At a time when the recent bomb explosions in Holy Qods [Jerusalem] and Tel Aviv are threatening the peace process, political observers attach special significance to this visit.

Although Turkey is not one of the main parties to the Middle East peace talks, in the present circumstances the

Zionist leaders hope that, as one of the largest Islamic countries in the Middle East, Turkey can play an active role in the Middle East peace negotiations.

Political observers consider Suleyman Demirel's visit to the parliament of the Zionist regime as president of a Middle East Muslim state in the same light as Sadat's visit to the Jewish state was assessed. Besides, according to the Zionist leaders, Turkey has many levers of pressure to apply to Arabs, such as her rich water resources, of which many Arab states, particularly Syria, are badly in need. Observers believe that, due to the key role that Damascus plays in the peace negotiations, the recent escalation of clashes between Turkey and Syria on the method of exploitation of the Euphrates River should be seen with that perspective in mind.

It is for this reason that many political analysts believe that water can be used as a key to the deadlocked peace process. Turkish authorities have recently said that the water pipelines that transfer water from Turkey to Middle East states serve as peace and friendship lines. But many Arab states in the region believe that such Turkish projects and politics are in keeping with that country's wish to attain her political and economic goals.

They further believe that Turkey and the Zionist State are endeavouring to become decisive players in the region on the question of water supply. Turkey, which owns large water resources and Israel, which possesses scientific capability, are countries that are looking for a common markets in the region - a common market which can stabilize and strengthen the Zionist regime and can serve as a platform on which the Zionists launch their pivotal role in the region.

According to Zionist leaders and their supporters, any progress in this direction necessitates progress in the process of peace negotiations in the Middle East and stability and peace in the form they wish. Such a perspective has better interpretation at the anti-terrorist congress being held at Sharm al-Shaykh where Suleyman Demirel is present and which apparently supports peace negotiations and a compromise between Arabs and Israel.

Of course during his visit to the Jewish state, Demirel will try to court the Zionist regime's influence in sensitive political and economic centers in Europe and the U.S. and will solicit Israel's support to achieve his objectives. These include a decisive role for Turkey in the region and improvement of relations between Turkey and other European nations.

In the meanwhile, the Turkish leaders must prepare a suitable answer for their Muslim citizens for the

expanding relations between Ankara and Tel Aviv. This becomes particularly important at a time when the result of the recent parliamentary elections in Turkey and the victory of pro-Islam party of Turkey is a bitter pill for the palate of the semantic-minded Turkish leadership.

Iran: Commentary Discusses Need for Social Justice

NC2103111696 Tehran ABRAR in Persian

10 Mar 96 p 4

[Commentary by Dr. Habib Chini: "The Future Majles and the Country's Economic Problems"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] As expected the people very favorably played their role by going to the polls and electing their candidates. Correspondents came from all over the world to view elections in a country against which there is so much propaganda. [passage omitted]

The people did everything in their power and everything that was expected of them and more. But this alert nation is now waiting to see what the Fifth Majles will do and whether the candidates will keep their promises. The promises have been recorded and the people will remember every word. There was talk about increased social justice, such that this sparked off an ideological discussion of whether social justice should supersede economic development, if both can be considered to be the two sides of the one coin, or if both can be advanced in parallel. Let us see how the Fifth Majles will advance this goal—one of the major principles of the Islamic Republic's Constitution.

In recent years we have unfortunately distanced ourselves from this goal because of unwanted problems. The time has now come for us to deal with this important issue. Social justice is not simply a support for strong economic and social stability; it is the doctrine the Islamic Republic has propounded to the world. We should show the world that Islamic ideology calls for a society where natural differences among individuals will never split society into various hostile groups. We should show the world that we seek something from which the West is distancing itself more each day and something the communists promised but never delivered. For us the human being is the offspring of God. Islam has worked in various ways to preserve the moral and material aspects of Man and has offered advice on this.

The Majles is now facing the divine test in front of a nation that wants to see what will be done to improve social justice. [passage omitted]

Whoever doubts the alertness of the Iranian nation would be wrong. The people have carried out their divine and national duties in the most laudable way. This

is true of the eight years of sacred defense and of many other cases, such as the elections. Wherever they have a right, they bravely stand up to vindicate that right. Extending social justice, progress, and development, having a suitable job, job security, and maintaining logical prices are among the rights the nation considers to be its own; it wants to know whether it will achieve its rights in exchange for its good services.

Iran: Method of Increasing Productivity Discussed
NC2103084396 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 9 Mar 96
p 4

[Commentary by Dr. Habib Chini: "Increasing Productivity"]

[FBIS Translated Text] While the people were waiting to hear who had been accepted as candidates for the fifth term Majles elections, between 8 and 10 Esfand (27-29 February) a seminar on increased productivity was held. The seminar opened with a speech by the minister of commerce. Bad timing probably prevented the seminar from attracting too much attention. But overcoming low productivity and related losses represents one of our basic economic issues.

Productivity concerns various issues, the most important of which are listed below.

Training manpower for a specific daily job tops the list of programs for increased productivity. The lack of specialized manpower in our country is not as important as employing specialized manpower in the areas in which they should be employed. In the industries of developed countries, one or two engineers or experts manage groups of a few hundred people. They do this so that these forces are employed in their areas of expertise. Those who cannot be in such positions, even with their high level of expertise, have no alternative, but to turn to other jobs that demand only a few years of elementary school education or, simply, the ability to read and write. From the economic point of view, expertise is only useful when an expert is employed in the specific field in which he specializes. Otherwise, all the trouble that is taken and the expenditure incurred training and finding experts is wasted. (Naturally things are different when we regard them from the point of view of individuals, since a specialized and educated person—whether employed or unemployed—continues to be a great asset.)

To increase productivity to a favorable level there should be a constant link between university and high school courses and economic needs—in the fields of industry, commerce, mining, agriculture, and services. The country's true needs should be identified and educational programs regulated accordingly. In addition

to helping people who are interested in education, it is also useful for economic institutions to grant scholarships. Those who win them will work in the areas of expertise and mix experience with knowledge. In this way these people can continue to work in the field they are experienced in throughout their employment, because the more work and experience are linked, the more interest is shown in continuing in that field.

Some experts in education and training believe that education for specific jobs should begin as early as preschool and that in elementary school the coordination of the mind, the eyes, and the hands should be achieved. In many developed countries where this program has been introduced children leaving elementary school and entering the first years of high school have quickly found the job that suits them and discontinued their higher education.

Although the tradition of the father teaching his son his art or vocation continues in some families, it does not answer the needs of society today. But it has special values. One of the outstanding features of this method is that it is deep-rooted and can be used to increase productivity. In short, expertise both on the management and employee level is necessary. But it is not enough. An inseparable part of this is regard for the job, which has educational, moral, and ideological aspects and calls for persistent cultural efforts.

Going beyond this phase, increased productivity calls for the necessary instruments and material. You cannot expect a worker whose work is delayed by a shortage of spare parts or raw materials to produce a favorable output. Today, in most fields, especially in industry, delaying a worker means delaying production. If we expect to have increased, more profitable productivity, we should be able to constantly furnish the needs of our industries and maintain logical stock requirements. We use the word logical to discuss stock in that the logic of economy dictates that we observe moderation, since heavy expenditure and excessive stock is not recommended. But delay because of a shortage of spare parts and material is unjustifiable.

Another issue is incentives. Workers in an institution should be in a position to know that there is a difference between working and not working, between bad performance and good or perfect performance. And the production system should work in a way that enables everyone to work harder and better and feel that they are competing with each other.

Job consciousness aside, workers should feel that, in addition to their wages or salaries, they should get a fair share of the value-added production that they have helped to achieve. Socially, it is good to offer workers

shares in the profits of the factories they work in. But that is something else: People's individual efforts should be assessed as part of a uniform system on the basis of clear regulations and the necessary incentives should be made available.

As for increased productivity, we do not simply mean products. Services too are sometimes equally, even more, important. Each aspect of production today calls for various services. And if every worker in the public or production sectors delays in carrying out his duties, it will be impossible to achieve a high level of productivity.

Increased productivity is beneficial only when the products that are manufactured are useful, required by society. Since a major part of our economy—some estimate it at 85 percent—is in the hands of the government, it is reasonable to point out that we sometimes see the production of some goods or excesses in some fields wasting public funds.

Iran: SALAM Editor 'Abdi Views Upcoming Majles Elections

96LA0150A Tehran AKHBAR in Persian 14 Feb 96
pp 1, 3, 4

[Interview with Engineer 'Abbas 'Abdi, editor in chief of SALAM, by Ebrahimi and Tavakkoli; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Political Factions Without a Plan

'Abdi: All Are Silent

AKHBAR NEWS NETWORK

In an interview, Engineer 'Abbas 'Abdi, editor in chief of SALAM, explained his views concerning the announcement of the Kargozaran [-e Sazandegi, the Officials for Reconstruction], the Fifth Majles elections, the output of the present Majles, the lack of formation of parties, the defeat of the left faction, dealing with those who think differently, and the situation of the press.

The details of this interview follow.

[AKHBAR] What is your evaluation of the recent developments in connection with the publication of the communique of the Khedmatgozaran-e Sazandegi [Servants of Construction], and what do you see in its future?

['Abdi] The main effect of the publication of the statement was breaking the election monopoly. The serious problem that exists in Iran is that thinking does not go along an independent path from power and is

strongly dependent upon it. Those who are around it, too, acquire monopolistic ideas and do not allow the entry of other ideas, but at least the advantage of the statement is that other ideas found the opportunity to appear and show themselves.

Of course, the main effect of this statement will be felt more in the provincial cities than in Tehran. Despite the fact that the signatories to the statement want to be active in Tehran and give a list, the main effect will be felt in the provincial cities, because the provincial cities are affected. In other words, when in Tehran the Jame'eh-ye Ruhaniyyat-e Mobarez [Militant Clergy Association] set forth a motto, in the provincial cities, those who relate to such slogans gain more power and their possibility for being elected increases, because in the provincial cities choosing a slogan is not a simple matter. How can a candidate choose a national slogan to attract everybody? Hence, it is natural for them to get their slogan from Tehran. When a group is formed, chooses a slogan, and makes it available, the others who do not have a slogan take it, and, as far as I know, the Militant Clergy Association is very sensitive about this issue.

Among the other political effects of this statement was the appearance of differences between the two factions. Sooner or later this issue had to be specified, and this climate (the elimination of monopolism) had to be clarified, but it is not clear how insistent these individuals are on continuing their process. If they are insistent, it is because they cannot return and must continue. Of course, the path that they have followed was not by choice and was forced on them. Had the Militant Clergy Association included the names of five suggested individuals, this movement would not have started.

When that faction goes so far as to not even agree to include the names of five people in its list—and for that matter individuals that it, as the government, has chosen itself to be Majles deputies—it is clear what it will do with their ministry tomorrow. Hence, no other way existed for the survival of this ideology.

Of course, the Militant Clergy Association did not think that they would choose this path.

Had they thought so, they would certainly have accepted five people, even though the acceptance of the five people would have consequences for them, and the consequences were the poem they had composed themselves and said that they were at a loss to rhyme. In other words, when in the past three or four years, they raised the main danger as liberalism and Western cultural invasion, when they raise this slogan, they should also have provided examples. Sometimes, the government served

as their example, and hence, they could not have a coalition with this example. The method of approach of other forces, including SALAM newspaper, also affected this issue. SALAM continuously stated that a coalition will be formed and presented it as bad, whereas there is no problem with them having a coalition.

[AKHBAR] In your opinion, is the issuance of the statement by 16 people contrary to the law?

[Abdi] Why should it be contrary to the law? How can the deputies appoint a minister and this not be considered interference in the Executive Branch, but if the ministers, as citizens, want to tell the people to vote for someone, this is considered interference in the Legislative Branch? Such statements are jokes. The separation of powers has nothing to do with these issues. The separation of powers regards the duties, so that the Executive Branch would not legislate and the Legislative Branch would not engage in implementation. Is the vote of confidence in the ministers, including the minister of justice and his presence in the Cabinet, interference of the branches with each other?

Essentially, everywhere in the world, the principle of separation of powers is accepted. Parties send deputies to the Majles, and the leaders of the same parties become presidents and prime ministers.

What is the problem with a minister saying to vote for someone? He is not putting the votes in the ballot boxes, as if there is a possibility of misuse. This possibility also exists regarding the Council of Guardians, as it has done so.

[AKHBAR] Was the statement of the Servants of Construction an insult to the Majles?

[Abdi] Insult has a meaning. The use of obscene words and abusive language is referred to as insult, whereas no such thing was in the statement, but as to whether the Servants of Construction have praised the Majles, that was not the case either. In political quarrels, they do not give away bread and halvah.

If they have not said that the Fourth Majles is the best in the world, is this an insult?

This is due to the self-centeredness of some of the people in the Majles, that if they say that they are not the best, they regard it as an insult.

[AKHBAR] In your opinion, what will be the composition of the next Majles?

[Abdi] It is impossible to be precise in predictions in Iran, and the main reason is that the Majles elections must be like final matches, where everyone in several rounds of regional matches shows himself and gradually reaches the finals. But our elections are not this way.

Still, despite the short period of time until the elections, none of the factions has spoken about its political and economic programs. It has all been general statements in support of or against one person or another official. These are not programs, and for that matter programs that have taken shape in the past four years and been debated. The main problems of the society are inflation, unemployment, and inequality, but no one has spoken about these issues. Voting is not related to these programs, it is only related to creating a general climate, and until the last minutes it will not be clear who will have the majority. Hence, forecasting is not a very proper thing to do. Everything depends on probabilities.

In a proper election, it is almost clear from a month prior to the elections who will win and who will lose and for what reason. On the whole, I assume that the Fifth Majles will not be as coherent as it is at the present.

[AKHBAR] The Majles deputies have threatened to interpellate a number of the ministers. Do you think they will implement those threats?

[Abdi] They will not do it, because any action under the present circumstances will end in a reaction. Public opinion will realize why it was done. They have to have a reason for interpellation. If they have had it so far and not stated it, it is a fault, and if they have not and discovered it now, it is doubly so. Such an action will have no benefit for the Majles, but nothing is unlikely with regard to this Majles.

[AKHBAR] What is your opinion regarding the invitation to those with different ideas to participate in the elections, and who are those with different ideas?

[Abdi] These terms are new and there are no equivalent examples for them, but the fact is that Mr. Mahdavi-Kani has said it, and the Council of Guardians may reject it all. We should see what Mr. Mahdavi-Kani means.

[AKHBAR] Why did the speaker of the Majles not sign the letter of the Majles deputies against the statement of the Servants of Construction?

[Abdi] The reason is that no one could be responsible for the letter and speak. If anyone spoke, he would have to say that the statement was in violation of the law, in which case, it would be asked how he, as the speaker of the Majles, could find it in violation of the law. This is different from the deputy of some provincial city signing the letter.

[AKHBAR] What initiatives are necessary to institutionalize the law in the country?

[Abdi] In Iran, we have this problem that, while there is relatively desirable freedom, at the same time, there is

a great deal of antidemocratic behavior. This precisely means that our freedom has no stability. Anyone can come and talk, and one group can also launch an attack and tear him to pieces. In other words, we have both forms. The reason is that the stability of freedom is not guaranteed. The way to the rule of law is to strengthen the civil institutions, to raise the level of social control and supervision. The press, the parties, workers, and guild unions can play a major role in establishing the rule of law. Without these, it is not possible for the law to be institutionalized, and elections have no meaning without these parameters. At the present, on one side of the elections are the large, 60-million masses and on the other side, five or six people. The relationship between these two sides is not clear at all and is quite shaky.

In societies where parties are active, a group with a thousand members mediates this relationship and is the main decisionmaker. In party activities, the branches of the party decide, and the head of the party cannot do much without their consent. A party with 1,000 or 2,000 members is in touch with millions of the masses and on the other hand, with the leadership of the society. Such relationships guarantee the law and protect its implementation.

[AKHBAR] Why do parties not form in our country?

[Abdi] Prior to parties, there are other institutions. Every organization that is to be formed must have social actions appropriate to its goals. Under the present conditions, the dominant thinking does not allow the formation of parties and raises the issue of parties that follow someone.

The purpose of party activity is to acquire power, and a party must show action and reaction regarding all political and social issues. Acquisition of power is not a bad thing, and every party considers it its duty to do so by obtaining the people's votes and understanding its weaknesses and strengths in a social relationship. When a party is unable to act in the normal ways, it is then that it falls into deviant ways. When it cannot have peaceful demonstrations, it starts non-peaceful demonstrations.

It is not true, as it is said, that the people are against parties. Everyone joins the closest organization and strengthens it.

No civil institutions exist that prepare the grounds for party activities. One of these institutions is the press. The Iranian press is among the oddest presses in the world, even the Third World. Despite the differences that they have, the presses in the world support each other strongly in terms of their profession. In Iran it is quite the contrary. Our press people write harsh indictments against other presses.

If the press had power, who would dare to act in violation of the law? Who would dare to send a circular letter to the Cabinet prohibiting interviews with the press? In other countries, if such a circular letter is issued, the press will not publish government news. In the Iranian press, you cannot be sure that the one who beats you, the interrogator, the one who arrests you, and the prosecutor are not from another newspaper. As long as power remains unbroken—and this does not mean weakening the power but for power to be in the hands of the nation—law will not be institutionalized.

[AKHBAR] In your opinion, what was the reason for the defeat of the left faction and its omission from the political scene of the country? What was the weak spot of this faction that prepared the grounds for its omission?

[Abdi] The omission of the left faction was not related to its actions. The economic operations in these few years, and for that matter without having a war and with so much in foreign loans, etc., was worse than in the past. The reasons for the omission of the left faction can be enumerated as follows:

During the time of the imam, because of his support, the left faction was in power. If it were not for that support, it is not clear what would happen. Hence, the government of this faction was not due to the balance of social forces, but because of the Imam's support. Without this support, naturally, they will not be at the top.

Another reason was the mottoes of 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990], which said: We have had a revolution for 10 years, and now we want to provide comfort for the people and start the wheels of the economy. They wanted to change various places in Iran to Switzerland and Sweden. Of course, these mottoes would not show the future but destroy the past. There is a time when the future is promised with a clear program, and there is a time when they say that the past was a disaster, and when that disaster is no longer there, the future will automatically be prosperous. This was this second type. In the Fourth Majles election, the people did not vote against a particular faction, they voted against the past because whenever a faction ruled, that faction did not receive votes. For instance in Mashhad, the right faction was in power and it did not get votes. In Shiraz, the right and the left ruled, and neither received votes. In Tabriz, too, the right ruled but did not get votes. If the right faction's situation was to improve, it was in Tehran, but why did it not improve in Tabriz and Mashhad?

The third reason was global support and climate, which had an effect on this defeat. After the disintegration

of the Soviet Union, it was argued that every left is bad and every right is good. Along with it was also the general climate of the radios and interviews, when it was said that if the moderate faction comes to power, relations between the West and Iran will improve, and domestically, too, it was thought that our foreign problems would be solved, whereas we saw that all of this was an illusion, and U.S. pressure in the few years that we have not bothered it has increased more than during the period of the war, when we directly threatened its interests.

The main weakness of the left faction was that it was under the protection of the imam. Of course, this weakness was itself the strength of this faction, but being in power because of an outside power will not last. The left faction should have shaped itself through dependence on an ideological and social class, as does the right faction—and that is precisely the relationship with commercial capitalism—or at least show itself through social actions, which because of the war did not quite materialize.

Hence, we should consider the left to be the product of a particular period, which does not exist now, a period in which, in the early part of the revolution, the minigroups did not leave any room for discussion, and afterwards, too, with the start of the war until 1368, this faction did not have the opportunity to be seriously socially active. Before considering the past as a product of the left, we should consider it a particular product of the revolution.

Think for one moment. If the right faction, with the same ideology, had been in power at the beginning of the revolution, do you know what tragedy would have occurred?

In the beginning of the revolution, one of the distinguished members of the right considered the labor law a law of "hired labor," something that they do not dare to say even today, despite the fact that capitalist values govern the country. If they were in power, the problem would not end with the minigroups but another urban revolution.

The left faction was not all the same. For instance, one of the serious opponents of the economic ideas of Engineer Musavi was Behzad Nabavi. Even regarding freedom, their thinking was not the same. Nevertheless, at that time, the most free newspaper was KEYHAN, which was operated by Hojjat ol-Eslam Khatami, which published interviews that today's KEYHAN would never publish. Today, it is not clear what they will do with the press for the slightest thing that may occur, but at that time, during the war, the most free press also existed.

[AKHBAR] How do you evaluate the recent treatment of several journals, including GARDUN?

[Abdi] In my opinion, a current in the country is trying to create a bipolar society: either absolute obedience or the other side of the line. They do not consider a middle ground. They know that it is hard to deal with people who are in the middle.

For instance in cinema, they accept Iraj Qaderi but not Mohsen Makhmalbaf because Iraj Qaderi has agreed to absolute obedience, and they have so many movies of his that if he were to say something, they could remove him from the scene quickly. But they cannot do so with Makhmalbaf.

They do the same in the area of culture. They do not bother Hezarkhani, but bother 'Abbas Ma'rufi, who raises some criticism. This line has problems with SALAM too, and wants SALAM to either be absolutely obedient or completely counterrevolutionary so that its situation becomes clear.

Pakistan

Pakistan: Supreme Court Asserts Authority To Appoint Judges

BK2003134396 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 20 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Supreme Court has ordered that the opinion of the chief justice of Pakistan or the chief justices of the concerned high courts will be mandatory for the appointment or confirmation of a judge of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has passed a short order to this effect on a constitutional petition filed by the Al-Jihad Trust and a civil appeal by Habibul-wa-Habibul Khairi and others, which challenged some appointments of judges in the superior judiciary.

The full bench of the Supreme Court in Karachi today observed that appointments of judges and the manner in which they are made have close nexus with independence of judiciary. The court observed that the words, after consultation, employed in Article 177 and 193 of the Constitution connote or mean that the consultation should be effective, meaningful, purposive, and consensus oriented. It should leave no room for complaint of arbitrariness or unfair play.

The order says opinion of the chief justice of Pakistan and the chief justice of a high court as to the fitness and suitability of a candidate for judgeship is entitled to be accepted in the absence of very sound reasons to be recorded by the president or the executive. The full bench of the Supreme Court further observed that the

permanent vacancies in the offices of chief justices and judges normally should be filled in immediately, not later than 30 days, but a vacancy occurring before the due date on account of death or for any other reasons should be filled in within 90 days on permanent basis.

The court says no ad hoc judge can be appointed in the Supreme Court while permanent vacancies exist. The order says an appointment of a sitting chief justice of a high court or a judge in the Federal Shariat (Islamic law) Court under Article 203-C of the Constitution without his consent is violative of Article 209. The full bench says ad hoc judges working in the Supreme Court either be confirmed against permanent vacancies or should be sent back to their respective high courts.

The court referred to Sub-Article 3 of Article 175 of the Constitution, which says that judiciary shall be separated progressively from the executive, and a judgment in a case of government of Sindh has been given. In this judgment, the court has provided further guidelines for financial independence of the judiciary. The cutoff date of the 23d of this month has been given by this court to enable the provincial governments for financial separation of the judiciary from the executive [sentence as heard]. The full bench of the Supreme Court comprised: the chief justice, Mr. Justice Sajjad Ali Shah; Mr. Justice Ajmal Mian, Mr. Justice Fazal Elahi Khan, Mr. Justice Manzoor Hussain Sayyad, and Mr. Justice Mir Hazar Khan Khuro.

Pakistan: Cabinet Approves Separation of Judiciary From Executive

BK2003164796 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 20 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A special Cabinet meeting was held in Islamabad today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. The Cabinet approved the separation of judiciary from the executive and, in this behalf, approved the draft of the Legal Reforms Ordinance prepared by the Ministry of Law and Justice. The draft ordinance proposes to place the judicial magistrates under the control of the respective high courts, while an executive magistrate will work under the respective provincial government and continue to administer special and local laws and matters dealing with control of law and order, public nuisances, weights and measures, and contempt of the lawful authority of public servants. The meeting also decided to call a session of the National Assembly at the earliest for the purpose of passing an act of parliament in accordance with the ordinance.

Pakistan: Mauritius President Arrives for Official Visit

BK2103041596 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 20 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The president of Mauritius, Mr. Cassam Uteem, is reaching Islamabad on a week's official visit. Mr. Cassam Uteem arrived in Karachi this morning for a brief stay. At the airport, he was received by the governor of Sindh, Mr. Kamal Azfar. During his stay in Islamabad, the Mauritius president will hold talks with President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. The Mauritius president will visit Karachi on the 26th and 27th of this month. He will visit the mazar [mausoleum] of Qaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah to offer fateha [prayers].

Pakistan: Editorial on Need for Nuclear Deterrent Against India

BK2003132496 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 20 Mar 96 p 4

[Editorial: "India's Aggressive Designs — Nuclear Deterrent Required for Pakistan's Defense"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The security problems faced by the country were discussed the other day in two high-level meetings held in the presidency. The president, the prime minister, the chief of army staff, the foreign secretary, and officials of the Inter Service Intelligence attended these meetings. No standard briefing was given about these meetings. It is regrettable that providing standard briefings on such meetings is not an official practice. This leads to rumor mongering and the government sometimes becoming annoyed with the newspapers. Anyhow, according to the new reports, India's latest mischief in Kashmir and safeguarding Pakistan's interests in Afghanistan were among the issues discussed. In occupied Kashmir, besides carrying out barbarous activities with its 600,000 troops, India has made two fresh moves. First, it is trying to create differences among the freedom fighters and, second, it is fencing the working boundary along the Sialkot-Jammu sector, due to which skirmishes have been continuing across the Line of Control for the past three days. Pakistan maintains the view that no changes can be made on the line of Control, while India, relying on its military power, is determined to have its way. In Afghanistan, India is also the reason why Pakistan is still deprived of the benefits it deserves on the basis of its year-long involvement with the Afghan jihad. India is collaborating with the Rabbani regime in Kabul and is performing the duty of defending Kabul. Recently, Mr. Gago Hedayatove, adviser to the foreign minister of Uzbek-

istan, criticized the Indian involvement and interference in Afghanistan.

In fact, India seems vigorously involved in all these activities in the region that can prove harmful to Pakistan. India is increasing its military power. It is hiding its military expenditure from the West by using several different tactics. The Indian Army is the second largest army in the world after the U.S. Army; and it is ironical that to strengthen its military India has acquired assistance from every one — the United States, Russia, and Europe. According to an analysis India's military program and each and every bullet and tool it uses has been bought with the assistance of the West. With the former Soviet Union, India had signed a defense pact. In addition, it is the largest recipient of U.S. military aid after Israel. According to 1992 statistics, this assistance was above \$52 billion. India is organizing its Army, armored divisions, Air Force and Navy on the most modern lines. It has also speeded up its efforts to manufacture missiles and is getting ready for a second nuclear test.

The question is: against whom does India need all this offensive capability? Generally, the United States and Europe provide this aid to India with China in mind, but in the past few years relations between India and China have improved to the level that China is giving a number of concessions to India and has softened its policy on the Kashmir issue. If there was the slightest possibility of conflict between China and India, then the plan to form a bloc consisting of China, India, and Iran would not have been proposed. The fact is that India's target is Pakistan, the only real hurdle blocking its expansionist designs. On the pretext of the Kashmir dispute, India can at anytime impose a conventional war on Pakistan. Sardar Abdu Qaiyum Khan, the prime minister of Azad Kashmir, has said many times that India is fighting an undeclared war along the Line of Control in Kashmir. It has besieged the Neelum Valley, which is experiencing a scarcity of food, and any retaliation from Pakistan's side can ignite a full-scale war.

The question is: are we as a nation, ready for this war. The country is facing political chaos and the government and the opposition are constantly engaged in a war of words. Corruption has weakened the basis of our society and, as Sonia Gandhi has said, India's cultural offensive has demolished Pakistan's ideological foundations. Our armed forces have remained involved in the politics of the country from the mid-1950's until the mid-1990's. This has affected the country's defense capabilities. In 1971, we suffered a military

defeat and lost East Pakistan. It is imperative that we learn the lessons from our history. Our armed forces should focus their attention on military preparations. The job of politics and government should be left to the representatives of the people. The government and the opposition should establish a working relationship according to the political and democratic norms to put an end to the chaos and anarchy in the country. Pakistan must get rid of ethnic and linguistic prejudice. Against this background, the Karachi problem in particular must be resolved so that the factors causing ethnic hatred are removed. The government should take political measures instead of suppressing the problem through the use of state power.

As one nation, we should analyze the heinous plans our enemy, India, is hatching against us. In fact, we can meet the Indian challenge only by uniting as a single nation. Then, in a conventional war Pakistan would be no match for India. India is far superior in every field. So, the only way to ensure our defense is to acquire a nuclear deterrent. We should declare as a nation that we possess a nuclear capability and to prove it we should conduct an explosion so that the enemy knows our capability. In foreign policy we should try to restore friendship with our traditional allies China and Iran. In Afghanistan the clash of interests between Iran and Pakistan should not be allowed to take a serious turn. In view of the historical ties between the two countries and Pakistan's sacrifices during the Afghan jihad, the two countries should try to resolve their differences. At this juncture, when the United States is following a policy of harassing China and has blamed it for providing ring magnets to Pakistan, we must stand with China, and give material support to China in the conflict between it and the United States over Taiwan. Then, in future China will also be bound to prove its traditional friendship with Pakistan.

With the Muslim countries, who have been fascinated by India's huge territory and vast resources, Pakistan needs to talk in clear terms to apprise them of India's anti-Muslim policies. The Islamic Conference seems to have become apathetic. It is the duty of our Foreign Office to awaken this Muslim organization from its slumber. Pakistan's neighbors in the Middle East and the Arab countries beyond should be informed that if, God forbid, Pakistan is defeated by India then there will be no power able to stop India from advancing further. Since Pakistan has remained a citadel of Islam in the past, it should occupy this position more strongly in the future.

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